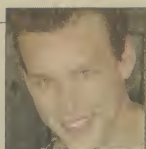


**Search is on for next HRC leader**  
Bowling to activist's concerns, LGBT  
group makes committee names public.  
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**I want my gay TV!**  
Two cable systems now  
offer queer programming.  
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**Creating 'Caroline'**  
Playwright Tony Kushner  
on his latest production.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 2 • 13 January 2005

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## Governor wins praise for ADAP allocation

by Matthew S. Bajko

In a surprise move, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed fully funding the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program in his fiscal year 2005-2006 budget he revealed Monday, January 10. AIDS advocates were quick to praise the governor, but remained concerned about funding for the state's Medi-Cal program.



Schwarzenegger

The proposal funds ADAP at \$263.6 million, a \$29.4 million increase from fiscal year 2004-2005. ADAP provides a range of HIV medications to approximately 30,000 low-income Californians, most of whom are severely economically disadvantaged.

Without ADAP, HIV medications – which can cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per year – would be out of reach for hundreds of low income Californians. ADAP required an additional \$30 million in funding last spring to pay for the rising number of individuals eligible for its services, the use of additional drugs by current enrollees, and increased drug prices.

Schwarzenegger provided \$20.6 million in increased state general fund support for the program, and estimated that it will receive an additional \$8.8 million in rebate revenues paid by pharmaceutical companies on ADAP purchases.

As the state continues to suffer record deficits and other parts of the governor's budget, including education and transportation spending, came under attack, AIDS agencies and their clients find themselves in a peculiar position, being happy with the ADAP funding.

Full funding for ADAP is a reversal of the last two years, when the program was initially underfunded. Last year, AIDS patients and their advocates rallied in the capital to fight a proposed ADAP waiting list and for increased funding to the program. In 2003, then-Governor Gray Davis initially underfunded the program and proposed copayments for people in ADAP. Both years Democrats in the Legislature and AIDS groups successfully beat back the proposals.

"Low-income people with HIV and AIDS can breathe a huge sigh of relief today as a result of the governor's compassionate decision," said Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "The ability of low-income people living with HIV

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## Gay Oakland council member calls it quits

by Matthew S. Bajko



Oakland City Council member Danny Wan during the announcement of his resignation last week.

Danny Wan, the first and only out gay person to serve on Oakland's City Council, is resigning from his seat effective Tuesday, January 18.

Citing personal and financial reasons, Wan informed friends and supporters last week of his decision to step down mid-term from the \$63,000-a-year position. Having to care for his elderly parents, who live in Fremont, Wan said he decided to leave elective office.

Fighting back tears, the 41-year-old Wan formally announced his resignation Thursday, January 6 before the council's rules and legislation committee.

"My parents are getting older and increasingly need my financial help and personal care. I find it more and more difficult to meet my obligations at City Hall while tending to my financial and family obligations," said a visibly upset Wan. "I ask for your understanding as I move on to care for my family and re-establish my livelihood."

Wan will remain in the public sector and work as a lawyer for the Port of Oakland.

Supporters are already talking about Wan as a possible candidate for Oakland city attorney in 2007, a position he would have been barred from running for if he had remained on the council.

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* after turning in his resignation letter, Wan would not rule out a return to office, saying if he is at a "better personal space, more stable" he would consider it.

Laughing, Wan said, "Yeah, I am leaving it open, but no promises."

In his resignation letter Wan indicated one reason for his stepping down is to brush up on his legal skills. He wrote, "As I approach my fifth year of absence from practicing law, I must begin working again as an attorney to remain visible in that field."

A member of the East Bay Municipal Water District Board, Wan was tapped by the Oakland City Council in 2000 to fill the District 2 seat vacated by John Russo after he won election as Oakland city attorney. Two years later Wan won election to a four-year term.

As a council member, Wan pushed for re-

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## Gay Lutheran group to honor mayor

by Kevin Davis

San Francisco's Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries will award Mayor Gavin Newsom its Voice of Distinction Award for his leadership in seeking to legalize same-sex marriage on Saturday, January 15. The celebration coincides with LLGM's 15th anniversary; the group was founded after the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America expelled two San Francisco churches for ordaining three non-celibate gay and lesbian pastors.

Event organizer the Reverend James DeLange scoffed at the idea of rescinding the mayor's honor and participation in light of his announcement last week of his impending divorce.

"It doesn't have any relevance whatsoever," said DeLange, who served as the senior pastor at St. Francis Lutheran Church from 1981-1999.

In 1990, St. Francis Lutheran Church near Duboce Park, and the Richmond District's First United Lutheran Church, were expelled from the ELCA for ordaining openly gay Jeff Johnson, and partners Phyllis Zillhart and Ruth Frost after the three did not pledge celibacy as required for homosexual Lutheran clergy.

Since then, 14 Lutheran pastors have been disciplined. Most were just symbolically censured in an official shunning and none were expelled until just recently, when San



From left, Lutheran pastors James DeLange, Ruth Frost, and Phyllis Zillhart

Bernardino's Central City Lutheran Mission faced expulsion for "calling" a lesbian pastor.

In October 2004 the Pacifica Synod removed recognition of the Southern California urban ministry to the homeless, after it installed associate pastor Jenny Mason. Mason is not on the official roster of recognized pastors since she is a non-celibate lesbian in a relationship. It is the harshest action taken toward a congregation since 1990.

"They've stopped expelling because the church knows we have a lot of closeted clergy," said Greg Egertson, LLGM's co-chair and an associate dean at Golden Gate University Law School. "It's a 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' situation. As more and more of them refuse to stay in the closet, it causes political problems in the church."

Originally, Lutheran seminaries had no LGBT celibacy vows.

last year.

"The system learned, not in a passionate way, how to control, it nipped things in the bud. It's been an interesting learning curve," Zillhart said.

Because one consequence of non-recognition is that no attempt is made by the nation's Lutheran seminaries to place newly accredited pastors in the outcast churches, LLGM members helped create their own parallel credentialing process, the Extraordinary Candidacy Project. ECP certifies out LGBT candidates in "ecclesiastical disobedience" for ordination and directs them toward inclusive churches.

ECP follows exactly the same content of ELCA. The only two seminaries to work with ECP, however, are in Berkeley and Philadelphia.

The ordinations of Zillhart, Frost, and

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# Pride accepting grand marshal nominations

by Kevin Davis

As the San Francisco Pride Committee officially opens nominations for this year's parade community grand marshals, it has also added three new venues to the Pride festival, and made it easier to donate, volunteer, and vote on the parade's planning.

Teddy Witherington, Pride executive director, jokingly labeled "byzantine," the process by which groups choose grand marshals.

Three different bodies vote in four grand marshal categories. The Pride Committee chooses the celebrity grand marshal (to be confirmed in February or March), one of the community grand marshals, and the lifetime achievement grand marshal.

The membership, the public, and a team of former grand marshals each choose a community grand marshal to prevent a choice based on popularity and media attention.

"People who tended to be good at campaigning were not always people worthy of recognition," said Pride President Joey Cain.

The group of former grand marshals also selects the organization grand marshal.

Bay Area residents take part in public voting to choose an individual grand marshal and the winner of the "Pink Brick Award," a dubious honor bestowed on a person who inflicted the most harm to the community. Previous Pink Bricks have gone to talk show host Laura Schlessinger and outgoing Attorney General John Ashcroft.

After the online nominations conclude January 31, board mem-



Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington, left, and board President Joey Cain.

bers select the nominees before the community voting begins.

Pride officials said that they expect 10 finalists in the community grand marshal category, five organization nominees, and three in the Pink Brick category.

To submit a nomination, visit [www.sfpide.org](http://www.sfpide.org) and click on the 2005 grand marshal link to enter information about a nominee.

## Festival changes

Returning stages, scattered around the festival's perimeter, include the "Nectar" women's venue; "Soul of Pride" African American stage; the Asian Pacific Islander stage; Radical Faerie Freedom Village; the Fag Friday dance arena; and "Shadow Play," billed as an alternative-goth-punk dance area. Additional returning favorites include venues for country-western dancing and the writer's village.

New venues this year include a hip-hop stage sponsored by the Sexual Minority Alliance of Alameda County. Coinciding with

a national LGBT Native American conference in June, the Pride festival will offer a giant teepee for the Bay Area Native American Two-Spirit group. And Pride officials said the transgender community is expected to build on its success of last year's first trans march the Friday of Pride Weekend and the celebratory altar, by extending festivities to a Sunday transgender stage and exhibitor space in the plaza next to the Asian Art Museum.

The Lyon-Martin clinic will sponsor a "Women's Wellness Village" and staff will hold a planning Thursday, January 20 at 6 p.m. at 1748 Market Street.

## Membership changes

The Pride board is also looking to revamp its membership process. Witherington called the committee's membership application process, "the biggest secret in San Francisco" due to the group's lack of marketing acumen in this area.

"It's quite ridiculous that an event the size and scale of Pride has 120 members," he said, adding that a small membership leaves the group open to the risk of factionalism, as has happened in the past.

"We've drifted from the good old, bad old days when people were too frightened to give up power," he said. "There were some pretty extraordinary meetings where people found they're either in or out. I read the minutes book. I'd laugh if it were not so tragic. By

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Will Newsom divorce hurt LGBT marriage movement?

by Zak Szymanski

It didn't take long for some people invested in the fight over LGBT marriage to speculate that Mayor Gavin Newsom's pending divorce could affect public opinion on the issue.

Newsom and his wife, Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsom, married to much fanfare three years ago, and recently were dubbed "The New Kennedys" by *Harpers Bazaar* magazine. But the couple spent much of their marriage in a long-distance relationship, with Guilfoyle Newsom moving to New York to take a job as a Court TV anchor shortly after Newsom took office. They jointly announced their decision to divorce last Wednesday, January 5, citing the pressures of their respective careers.

Newsom made worldwide headlines in February 2004 when he oversaw the city's effort to issue marriage licenses to gay couples; the decision drew thousands of couples to San Francisco and sparked similar actions by mayors and other officials throughout the country. Over 4,000 same-sex couples were married in San Francisco during the city's monthlong gay wedding run until the state Supreme Court ordered a halt to the marriages last March. Then, last August, the same court declared San Francisco's same-sex marriage licenses to be invalid and ruled that the city exceeded its authority in issuing them. Meanwhile, San Francisco has also launched a court battle of its own, challenging the constitutionality of the state's ban on same-sex marriage.

Regardless of the legal battles and defeats surrounding same-sex marriage in California, the action taken by Newsom and the city was unprecedented, and remains a historic milestone in LGBT civil rights. Part of what helped to make the case for the same-sex marriages, agree many, is that Newsom was a handsome, happily married man himself who championed the cause, at times equating his own committed relationship to those of committed LGBT couples.

"I'm thankful that so many thousands of couples have come from all over the country and around the world to San Francisco to be given the same rights and privileges and obligations that my wife and me have been afforded over the two years that we have had the privileges of marriage," Newsom said at the time.

Now, however, some gays said they are fearful that Newsom is no longer a credible spokesman for the institution of marriage. San Francisco resident Tolver — who uses only one name and married his partner of 18 years at City Hall last Valentine's Day — said he fears that others may see the mayor's divorce as proof that gay marriage proponents do not hold marriage to the highest standards of commitment.

"The mayor said homosexuals ought to have the right to marry because their relationships were just as strong as his marriage," said



Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsom and Gavin Newsom are all smiles on Election Night 2003.

Tolver, adding that many LGBT couples obviously have even stronger commitments to each other than the Newsoms did. "He used his own marriage as a basis for comparison. It's going to affect public opinion. In the eyes of the world, his relationship reflects on our relationships."

Tolver did acknowledge that Newsom's marital status would have been an inevitable part of the publicity surrounding the mayor's support for gay marriage. He also said that his criticism of the mayor is mostly about what he believes others will say about the Newsom divorce.

"I just see it as how other people will look at it," he said. "It will reflect badly for heterosexuals when they look at gay marriage."

Other gays, however, strongly disagree. Former Assistant District Attorney Jim Hammer — who worked with Guilfoyle Newsom on the famous "dog mauling" trial that found Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel guilty for their dogs' deadly attack on San Francisco resident Diane Whipple — said that the Newsoms' marriage is a private affair and their divorce does not undermine the argument

for equality.

"Gavin made a brave decision, at his own political peril, to take a giant leap to support the fight for civil rights. The fact that he is getting divorced does not change that," said Hammer, adding that there is a certain irony to politicizing a heterosexual's marriage. "How anyone can judge another person's marriage — gay or straight — is beyond me. And for gay people to do it is especially unfortunate, when we have argued for so long for privacy in our lives."

Part of what was so brave about Newsom's decision, said Hammer, is that it automatically "opened him up to intense personal scrutiny." But the strength of the fight for civil rights for gay people, he said, "does not depend on any one marriage. The fight for gay marriage is the fight for the right to be like anyone else."

Attorney Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, who was instrumental in helping implement Newsom's plan to offer same-sex marriages, said she has not yet heard the kind of criticism that linking Newsom's divorce to the

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## Supreme Court declines Florida adoption case

by Bob Roehr

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, January 10 declined to hear a case challenging Florida's ban on gay couples adopting children. The state does allow gays to be foster parents.

The case was known as *Lofton v. Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families*. Former talk show host Rosie O'Donnell brought national attention to the case when she went to bat for Steve Lofton, his partner Roger Crouteau, and their five kids. The couple wanted to adopt 10-year-old Bert, who they had cared for as foster parents since his birth.

Observers were not surprised at the court's decision. The high court declines to hear the vast majority of cases that are appealed to it. In session on Monday, it accepted no cases, remanded one back to a lower court, and declined to hear 469 appeals.

"The plain and well-understood purpose of the ban [by Florida on gays adopting] was to tell gay people to go back into the closet," said Matt Coles in filing the appeal. He heads up the Lesbian and Gay Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union.

"This case deserved to be heard," said Patricia Logue, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which filed a brief in support of the appeal. "Florida's law keeps thousands of children in state care and out of permanent loving homes — solely because the state wants to express disapproval of gay people."

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, said, "The Supreme Court's refusal to hear this case marks its refusal to heed the advice of all major child welfare organizations and health care professionals who say that gay parents are no different from other loving parents." ▼



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## Events commemorate MLK Day

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Events in San Francisco this weekend will commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day as well as the 25th anniversary of the national Black and White Men Together group.

On Saturday, January 15, the Northern California Martin

Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance Committee will host its youth and family day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Yerba Buena Gardens and Metreon, located on Mission Street between 3rd and 4th

streets. Hundreds of families are expected to be on hand for a day of cultural and educational activities including performances, speakers, and storytelling. Families will also be offered special discounts at Yerba Buena Gardens and Metreon attractions. Guests should attend the 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. kickoff programs to receive their discounts, which include free admission to Metreon's "Where the Wild Things Are," the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, bowling, ice skating, and more. For more information, e-mail jackiekg@pacbell.net or call (510) 268-3777.

Also on Saturday, at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, members of Black and White Men Together (known locally as Men of All Colors Together) will host a community reception and celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of the group.

The event takes place from 7 to 10 p.m. The organization is committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goals of human equality realized. For more information, call (415) 861-2630.

On Monday, January 17, the King birthday committee will sponsor the annual Freedom March and rally. This year's rally guests include Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) and American Idol finalist Latoya London.

The march begins at 4th and Townsend streets at 11 a.m.; the rally runs from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove Street at Larkin in San Francisco.

### News Briefs

**Dine at Chevy's to help PFLAG**

People who have dinner at the Chevy's restaurant at the Stonestown Mall in San Francisco on Tuesday, January 18 can help the local chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. The restaurant will donate 20 percent of a party's food bill to PFLAG. To take advantage of the fundraiser, however, patrons need to download a coupon from the Chevy's Web site and eat at the restaurant between 5 and 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

To download the flyer, go to www.chevys.com and click on "fundraisers." Next, select "download fundraiser flyer," then replace "your organization here" with PFLAG San Francisco. Enter 20 percent as the percentage, and the

date, time, and location (Stonestown Mall, Winston Drive, San Francisco 94132), and print the coupon. Take it to the restaurant and present it as you are seated.

An alternate way to obtain the coupon is to call PFLAG at (415) 921-8850 and leave your fax number for a coupon sheet to be faxed to you.

### White elephant sale

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, a nonprofit traditional Chinese medicine clinic, is having an indoor rummage sale to raise funds. The organization is seeking donations of items from classy to campy. The sale takes place Sunday, January 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the center, 455 Valencia Street (at 16th Street) in San Francisco.

People can donate new or "nicely-used" household items, collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs, videos, bikes, toys, electronics, small furniture, and clothing. No broken or perishable items or holiday fruitcakes. Donations will be accepted Thursday, January 20 and Friday, January 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the center. A limited pickup service on Friday and Saturday is available by calling (415) 861-4964 or e-mailing quanyintwo@aol.com.

The clinic offers full service traditional Chinese medicine to treat HIV-positive people. It faced budget cuts in 2004 and is only partially funded through May.

### DSCS seeks board members

Dolores Street Community Services is seeking volunteers to serve on its board of directors.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Mayor vetoes homeless center funding switch

by Matthew S. Bajko

As one of his first official duties of the new year, Mayor Gavin Newsom vetoed legislation authored by Supervisor Chris Daly that would have stripped funding away from the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center's homeless drop-in center.

Fresh from his New Year's vacation and only days after announcing his divorce, Newsom sent the supervisors his veto letter Saturday, January 8, the same day as the recently elected supervisors were sworn in. In it, he said he objected to the board's decision to deappropriate \$283,809 from the Department of Human Services for a homeless drop-in center and reprogram the funds to the Department of Public Health.

The supervisor's legislation would have kept the funding in the hands of Central City Hospitality House, which has run the Tenderloin Self-Help Center for nearly two decades. For the first time in 18 years the city put the contract to run the center out to bid last summer, and in September it awarded TARC the contract.

In response, Daly introduced his legislation, which passed in December. TARC responded saying it might sue the city for violating its own competitive bid-

ding process.

Newsom agreed, saying in his letter that one of his priorities as mayor has been to put out old city contracts to bid in order to improve services and ensure contractors are selected in a fair, merit-based manner.

"I believe that this legislation will divert resources away from the legitimate grantee to the losing bidder of a competitive process. In response, TARC has promised to explore legal challenges to this action," said Newsom. "I believe that the only legitimate way to award public service contracts is through merit-based processes. This action I am taking today is intended to achieve this goal, ensuring that the contract for the Tenderloin drop-in center is provided to the rightful recipient and thus protecting the fairness of the city's competitive bid process."

TARC this week thanked Newsom for his veto. The agency argued that if Daly's legislation were to be enacted it would not only ignore the competitive bid process and have wasted TARC's "tremendous efforts" in competing for the contract, but would signal to city residents and all local nonprofit organizations that merit can be trumped by powerful political forces.

"With this action the mayor

held fast to his commitment to award public service contracts through a merit-based process," said Tracy Brown, TARC executive director.

Daly, however, chided the mayor's action, saying, "in the spirit of unity on board inauguration day, Mayor Gavin Newsom vetoed" his legislation. He added that DPH only intends to continue the city's contract with Hospitality House on a month-to-month basis while it works on issuing a new request for proposals to competitively bid the contract. The mayor's veto is payback, contends Daly, for criticism of his homeless policies.

"Through implementation of his Care Not Cash program, the Mayor and [DHS] have been rewriting programs with little to no public scrutiny. Critics of Care Not Cash, such as Central City Hospitality House, have been penalized for their opposition," said Daly in a response to the mayor.

Daly has vowed "to stand on the side of the hundreds of homeless individuals who are threatened with loss of vital services if this veto is sustained."

While his legislation passed, Daly does not appear to have enough votes to override the mayor's veto when it comes before the supervisors on January 25. ▼



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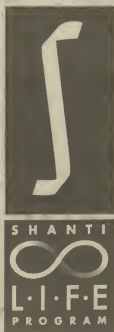
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## OPEN FORUM

## The governor's budget

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger unveiled his \$85.7 billion budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 Monday. The good news is that the spending plan calls for full funding of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Healthy Families program. On the flip side, however, the governor's budget proposes drastic cuts and copayments in other health programs as well as cuts to public education that would affect the poorest of the state's residents. The budget also calls for more borrowing to help cover the \$9.1 billion budget gap, but does not include tax increases as a way to increase revenue.

When Schwarzenegger ran in the recall election, he repeatedly said he would be a different kind of governor — one for all the people. He said he had the bold leadership and vision necessary to bring businesses back to the state. After taking office, he even went to Las Vegas to promote California business, but that effort seems, in hindsight, to have been nothing more than a publicity stunt. Public education has suffered greatly in recent years and businesses will not start streaming into the state if there aren't good schools. In 2002, the state ranked in the bottom 10 states in a national fourth-grade reading exam, according to an article by Jennifer Nelson in the *California Journal*. Schwarzenegger's budget reneges on \$1.1 billion that schools are owed this year because he wants to suspend Proposition 98, the voter-approved measure that sets school spending. In essence, he's proposing to go against the will of the voters, who have repeatedly ranked education as one of their top priorities and voted for ballot measures to increase spending for public schools.

Social services are also a vital part of the state's responsibility to its residents, and here, too, Schwarzenegger's budget falls short. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) told us this week that Schwarzenegger's budget proposal is "devastating" to the state's poor and uninsured. Those on Medi-Cal would face a \$1,000 cap on dental services and incur copayments for other services.

"The budget is lacking in equality in that only those with the least are asked to give the most," Leno said.

Not surprisingly, Leno and other Democrats in the Legislature continue to press Schwarzenegger to find revenue in order to offset his proposed budget cuts. Leno pointed out that had Schwarzenegger not rescinded the vehicle license fee last year, there would be \$4 billion in the state's coffers. If income taxes were increased for the top 2 percent of the state's wage earners, that would yield another \$3 billion. "We'd have \$7 billion right there," Leno said.

Schwarzenegger's pledge not to raise taxes prevents him from doing what is best for Californians. Budget cuts can only save so much, and the cost in lost services is too high.

There's another avenue the governor is not pursuing — help from the federal government. That was a selling point Schwarzenegger made when he ran for office: he could use his considerable political capital to work with the Bush administra-

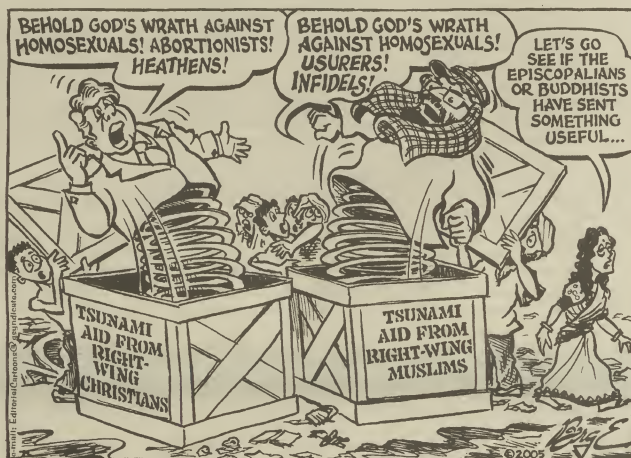
tion to get the state its fair share of federal dollars. But that hasn't happened. This is a governor who went to Ohio to make a high-profile campaign appearance for President Bush just before the election; yet the governor has done little in the way of getting Bush

and the administration to recalculate formulas to distribute the funds more equitably. Leno pointed out that right now, the state doesn't get about \$50 billion in federal money. California only gets 77 cents back for every dollar it sends to Washington. Texas, on the other hand, gets 92 cents back for every dollar. Just getting 20 percent of that \$50 billion would be \$10 billion, enough to cover the state's deficit.

The governor has displayed a lack of the bold leadership and vision that inspired so many Californians to vote for him. His sunny optimism seems only to extend to photo opportunities, not to the very real business of putting the state back on track. ▼



## Editorial



## Wanna get engaged?

by Geoff Kors and Molly McKay

"Gotta get out of bed and get a hammer and a nail, learn how to use my hands, not just my head, I'll think myself into jail. Now I know a refuge never grows, from a chin in a hand in a thoughtful pose. Gotta tend the earth if you want a rose."

— Indigo Girls, "Hammer and A Nail"

It is time to "Get Engaged" in securing full relationship equality for California families. Equality California is recruiting love warriors across the state to rally to the battle at hand.

The stakes? The potential to become the first state in the U.S. to end civil marriage discrimination against same-sex couples through a vote of our elected officials. At risk? The threat of a discriminatory constitutional amendment that would not only prohibit same-sex couples from civil marriage, but roll back all the protections afforded domestic partners in California. This is a watershed moment in LGBT civil rights.

This battle begins and ends with California — the end to divisive campaigns to disenfranchise LGBT families and the beginning of a new day of equality for all people.

There are important lessons learned from losing Proposition 22 in March 2000 and these lessons were confirmed in the most recent spate of state constitutional amendments lost across the country. First, we must stand on the principled convictions that same-sex families deserve equal protection under the law — we must stand for marriage equality, not just against unfair discrimination.

Second, we must put a human face to discrimination. It is much easier to say, "I don't believe that gays should marry" than to say "I don't believe that my co-worker,

neighbor, or relative Sally and her wife Amy and their two darling children deserve the same relationship protections that my co-worker, neighbor or relative Bill and Sally enjoy." In Kentucky, organizers said they won support from 85 percent of the people they visited door to door. Many of us know the magic of one-on-one conversations — they make all the difference.

Here is the reality: the LGBT community is not the population with the highest support for equal relationship rights. According to a 2004 poll, only 51 percent of LGBT individuals polled supported full marriage equality, compared with 64 percent support from Jewish voters and 61 percent support from self-identified liberals and pro-choice straight individuals. Another stark reality check — only 41.7 percent of registered voters in San Francisco showed up to the polls to vote in the Prop. 22 election, compared with 57.9 percent turnout in Orange County and a statewide average turnout of 51.4 percent. What does this mean?

For those committed to making equality a reality, it means it is time to get out of our collective comfort zone, it is time to stop arguing with our community and start venturing next door to involve our straight allies in the call to arms. It means that our focus in the Bay Area is less to convince our neighbors to vote in support of LGBT equality and more to ensure that they will get to the polls when we need them. It also means that we need to spread the gospel of equality to all who will hear us — it is time for a road trip with a mission. Did you know that there are 13 counties within a two-hour drive of San Francisco?

We invite you to participate in a unique

outreach adventure. We invite you to support or participate in Equality California's Get Engaged Tour 2005 — 58 counties in 28 days by nine teams with one vision. Stock up on your favorite road trip snacks and join a team today! Plan to travel across California to connect with our community and celebrate February's Freedom to Marry Month! Help make contacts with local supporters and organize educational forums, town halls, and other informal gatherings so that all 58 California counties are engaged for equality events in February! Go to [www.eqca.org](http://www.eqca.org) or [www.marriageequality-ca.org](http://www.marriageequality-ca.org) and click on the Get Engaged Tour logo for details.

Another way to become re-inspired to support the cause is to join honorary chair Mayor Gavin Newsom and attend Equality California's marriage anniversary gala celebration in the San Francisco City Hall Rotunda on Saturday, February 12.

Purchase tickets online at [www.eqca.org](http://www.eqca.org).

Finally, Equality California is co-sponsoring a marriage summit with a large number of other community organizations to update San Franciscans on the status of the marriage litigation, legislation, and public educational opportunities on Sunday, January 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the State Building basement auditorium at 455 Golden Gate Avenue. Panels will invite discussion on a wide range of angles to the marriage equality fight. Registration is free, but space is limited. To reserve a space at the marriage summit go to [www.eqca.org](http://www.eqca.org) and register on-line.

The battle is here, there is no going back, the only question you must answer is "Wanna Get Engaged?" in the battle for LGBT equality. If so, join us. It's that easy. ▼



## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Clarifying porn column

In his year-end porn wrap up, *Bay Area Reporter* reviewer John Karr offers commentary that is misleading and requires correction. First, let me say that we here at Raging Stallion Studios hold Mr. Karr in very high regard and we would all agree that no other reviewer has been kinder and more supportive to Raging Stallion than Mr. Karr. Indeed, on a personal level I would thank Mr. Karr for dozens of complimentary reviews of my work. He has been – and I hope he continues to be – a strong supporter of this writer. This letter is not a complaint, but rather a critical correction that must be made in public.

In his column of December 30 ["The year in gay pornography"] Karr comments that some companies make a strong stand against barebacking in porn, while others "Raging Stallion and Spunk among them, are two-stepping around this, offering a variety of rationales which basically come down to: the performers take responsibility for themselves."

This statement is already causing confusion with our local customers. Let me state clearly and in no uncertain terms that Raging Stallion does not produce or condone the production of any bareback porn. Our studio was founded on the strong moral principles of safer sex and we strongly contrast ourselves with studios such as Spunk Video, a producer of bareback videos. Please understand one important fact – Raging Stallion is a high-end producer of award-winning gay erotica. If we decided to produce bareback movies with Raging Stallion Studios' quality, all of us at this company would instantly become very wealthy. Instead, we have opted in favor of being responsible community members by not creating highly profitable bareback movies. Rather, we create movies that will inspire smarter, safe sex behavior.

We know that Mr. Karr has the best of intentions and we assume that his comments were not meant to imply that Raging Stallion produces, now or ever, any bareback films. Unfortunately, the wording is misleading and we feel that clarification is necessary to maintain our upstanding reputation.

Everyone producing gay erotica today faces a moral choice. We are happy with the choice we have made.

Chris Ward, President  
Raging Stallion Studios Inc.  
San Francisco

[Editor's note: John Karr responds in his Karnal Knowledge column in the arts section.]

## Misses 'Our Man Friday'

I miss Wayne Friday's political insider gossip column. Please revive it. As Friday ages, he should choose a young apprentice to assist him now and succeed him later.

Tortuga Bi Liberty  
San Francisco

## Mad at the mayor

I wed my husband in San Francisco at City Hall on February 14, 2004, when, by Mayor Gavin Newsom's decree, same-sex couples were allowed to marry. I am now into my 19th year with my husband, we are very happy, and I thank the mayor very much for the opportunity to have our relationship acknowledged by society and the whole world.

Marriage is hard work. You are sharing everything with another person: their successes, their failures, their happiness, and their sadness. It is not always easy, but you keep at it through the bad times because there is the reward of absolute intimacy. When it comes down to it, you are not alone in the world; you have somebody to love, and more importantly, somebody to love you back. Ultimately, the rewards are worth the hardships.

Mayor Newsom said that he wanted same-sex couples to enjoy what he and his wife had. What was that? Three years? Is that all you think that we deserve?

In marriage you make compromises. Either Kimberly should have stayed in San Francisco and pursued a career here, or Gavin should have resigned as mayor and followed her to the East Coast so that she could have a career there. Nothing, not career, nor social nor familial pressures, should dissuade someone from pursuing their relationship with their life partner.

When it comes down to it, a marriage is more important than anything else.

Mayor Newsom has hurt same-sex couples far more deeply than one can imagine. The man who gave us some sort of societal recognition to our relationships cannot even keep his own marriage going for more than three years. Thus, why bother giving us relationship equality when it's obviously not good past three years?

The mayor's divorce has set back gay rights by at least a decade.

The mayor's divorce has cheapened the relationships of millions of same-sex couples around the

world. From now on whenever a same-sex couple is denied equality the mayor will share some of that blame, for through his actions he has given discriminators the rationale they need for denying us anything and everything.

As a public official he has a responsibility to uphold the ideals that he purported to stand for, and he failed. He made his political career, at least somewhat, on the basis of the strength of his marriage. Now he is getting divorced. He has let down his constituents in his failure to maintain his own marriage. His political career is now over, he should resign his office and never pursue a political career again.

Tolver  
San Francisco

## Four more years

It's not too late to make a New Year's resolution: Always have a plan B.

I have always lived my life with a plan B, but it has never seemed as necessary as now. The next four years will be a free-for-all in the Republican Party, and I know I cannot take the gay life I once knew for granted.

To say I am fearful is not right, for I am not. Fear would give them too much power. What I have instead is hope. But hope for me is also fueled by living smart. And I call on all of you to join me to start living your life smart.

Know your friends and be aware of your enemies. Know your strengths and nurture them to the fullest extent. Know your weaknesses, and make an additional plan C and D for those, so you always have a way out.

Envision the next four years as if we are approaching a new war, but realize that our battlefield is empty of soldiers. We need you to be a soldier for the four-year war you are about to fight, for it is one that involves fighting for your rights.

I cannot recall being in such a volatile position in my lifetime. Our entire freedom as we know it is up for grabs, mainly because of the likelihood of a changed Supreme Court, which will be one of the most feared by minorities in ages.

Longtime AIDS activist Larry Kramer recently recited an 18-page speech in New York that I had the opportunity to read over and over again. It speaks volumes to where we are in our gay lives, how much we have lost, and how much we still have to gain.

In his candor, Kramer argued that we are murderers, basically killing ourselves and others with unsafe sex, crystal, etc., while the Republicans are just sitting back watching. In short, his view is that they do not need to do much to destroy us; we are doing a fantastic job on our own. Powerful? Yes. Hard to read? Yes. True? Unfortunately, in many cases, yes.

Believe it or not, fighting was once known as heroism. I find of late that people don't like to fight anymore. I think many have become numb to life in general. Think about how our society operates in this age of "fix-me" pill poppers. Antidepressants can numb you from feeling, and it seems everyone I know is on one. Maybe that's why no one rants anymore. Everyone goes to raves, but no one raves in the truest sense of the word.

If you want to be a hero, even if only in your own mind, make a resolution this new year that you can truly measure by the end of the year. Choose a gay legal cause you're passionate about and hit the battlefield, well prepared with your plan B and your dignity and your crew of fellow soldiers. When you're older, you might even find that you have become a mentor for the next generation.

Tom Finan  
San Francisco

## Gays need to organize

For weeks I have read about the comings and goings of the marriage issue – the litigation, legislation, rallies, seminars, etc. No where I have read about the impending tsunami of negativism that is about to descend on the issue.

The Christian right is not going to play defense on this issue. They are planning a constitutional amendment in either November, if there is a special election, or in June that would restrict marriage to a man and a woman and most likely quash domestic partnerships and any sort of benefit or privilege of marriage granted to "unwed" couples. They have already begun to maneuver in the legislature in this direction.

Thus, the question is what are we doing about this dire threat? Why haven't we been talking about this threat in the public arena? It should have been obvious that a strong counterreaction would occur. Where is the comprehensive statewide plan to counter the initiative? The \$3 million in the bank to begin the fight? The polling?

The impending battle will be brutal. We are already behind the curve. We need to get organized.

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San Francisco

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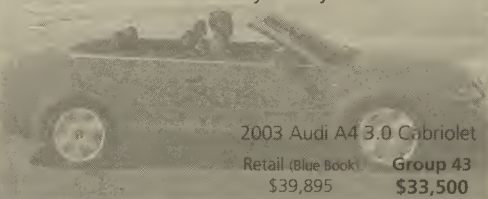
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# The limited lesbian

by Paula Martinac

When celebrated American thinker and writer Susan Sontag died recently, her obituaries all noted her marriage in the 1950s to Philip Rieff and the son they had together. In a double standard that seems odd now that obituaries routinely acknowledge same-sex survivors, few media outlets touched on her intimate relationships with women – including one with photographer Annie Leibovitz that lasted almost three times longer than Sontag's

heterosexual marriage.

A big part of this omission has to do with Sontag's fierce, lifelong rejection of the identities of lesbian or bisexual – or “queer,” a term that even some academically chic straight people have claimed. The media, then, can simply say they're respecting Sontag's “privacy.” But the other part of the silence about Sontag's sexuality has to do with the limited and negative way U.S. culture defines the word “lesbian” – notably when it is coupled with “writer.”

Sontag's refusal to acknowledge her sexuality went way be-

yond the desire for privacy; it was also about the desire for power and influence. After all, being a lesbian writer – or even just a writer who is a lesbian – has not been a wise career choice in our culture. In fact, it's been almost a guarantee of obscurity, with a few notable exceptions like novelist Rita Mae Brown and playwright Paula Vogel.

A big obstacle for lesbian writers is that the concept of “lesbian” still brings to people's biased minds an image of dumpy women who dress badly and hate men – and who wants to hear what they have to say? Curiously, many of the same obituaries that skipped over Sontag's sexuality extolled her glamour and attractiveness, her “luxurious” hair and “ravishing” smile – traits not commonly associated with lesbians.

Because of the prevailing stereotype of lesbians, then, many straight people – and some gay men, too – have decided that our writing couldn't possibly possess the depth and breadth of that of straight and gay male writers, whose art is expansive and “universal.” (Lesbians are often dismissed simply as purveyors of girl-on-girl romances, although heterosexual romance is a staple of straight publishing.) In a telling comment on the limited reach of even the most well-known lesbian writers, Sontag claimed never to have heard of Camille Paglia when

the latter excoriated her in an essay titled “Sontag, Bloody Sontag.”

To quote her obituaries, Sontag was indeed “fearless” and “a hero” – she achieved fame as a critical thinker in a culture that has rarely associated intellectualism with women. But still, she was terrified of being construed as a dyke.

When Carl Rollyson and Lisa Paddock detailed her same-sex liaisons in their unauthorized biography of her, she threatened legal action. The authors and their publisher didn't back down, so Sontag circumvented the supposed damage the book would cause by writing about her sexuality in the *New York*

*er* as an “open secret” – a gratingly offhand phrase used by outed celebrities who had absolutely no intention of coming out on their own. (“What? Oh, that! Gee, I thought everybody knew.”)

In a strange way, though, Sontag's closeted-ness is less annoying than the fact that some famous gay male writers, themselves out for many years, have deemed her sexuality inconsequential. Larry Kramer, for example, called Sontag an “Intellectual” with a capital “I,” who was “beyond being a lesbian” and didn't belong in “that category” (my emphasis). Edmund White saw her as “first and foremost a citizen” (lesbians aren't citizens?), a woman for whom identity politics were too “provincial.” Even radical Michael Bronski

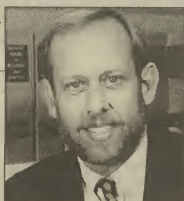
wrote an extensive tribute to Sontag, rhapsodizing about her intellectual achievements on such gay-interest topics as camp culture and AIDS, but jarringly avoiding the question of her own queerness.

It's hard to imagine, however, that any contemporary gay male writer would opt to keep his sexuality under wraps for career purposes – and what's more, that he would be casually excused by other gay writers for doing so. Would Larry Kramer really label any prominent man known to have sex with other men as “beyond being gay”? It's doubtful, since the phrase reduces “gay” to something trifling and inconsequential (like, say, “lesbian”). If you have any doubts, just contrast Kramer's thoughts about Sontag with his passionate attempts to “gay” Abraham Lincoln – even though the latter lived in an era when the concept of “gay” didn't exist and there was no sexual identity as we know it today.

Sadly, all this points to the fact that lesbian writers experience a peculiar double sexism – not just as women, who have a more difficult time being taken seriously as writers and thinkers than men do; but also as women who are independent of men. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of *Q Syndicate*. She can be reached care of this publication or at Lesbian Notions@qsyndicate.com.

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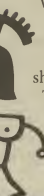
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## Lesbian Notions



secret” – a gratingly offhand phrase used by outed celebrities who had absolutely no intention of coming out on their own. (“What? Oh, that! Gee, I thought everybody knew.”)

## News briefs

◀ page 4

DSCS operates a neighborhood-based shelter program for working poor Latino men, runs the Richard M. Cohen AIDS residence, and a community center on Valencia Street.

Currently, the board of directors is responsible for the governance and mission of the agency, implementing financial and policy oversight, fundraising, and community outreach work. In particular, women, Latinos, people living with AIDS and the residents of the Mission and Castro neighborhoods are encouraged to apply. For more information about the organization, visit [www.dscs.org](http://www.dscs.org). To learn more about becoming a board member, e-mail a statement of interest to Bob Nelson, executive director, at

[bnelson@dscs.org](mailto:bnelson@dscs.org).

## Quit smoking class

Smokers who want to kick the habit in the new year can attend free smoking cessation classes offered by the Last Drag that cater to LGBT and HIV-positive smokers. The next class takes place Wednesday, January 19 and runs through February 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. Classes are held in a confidential, supportive group setting and led by a skilled and experienced clinic leader who is certified by the American Lung Association.

To register, visit [www.lastdrag.org](http://www.lastdrag.org), e-mail [info@lastdrag.org](mailto:info@lastdrag.org), or call (415) 339-STOP.

The Last Drag is sponsored by the Coalition of Lavender Americans on Smoking and Health and is funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health. ▼

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# Who was M. Carey Thomas?

by Liz Highleyman

January 1857 (148 years ago this month): Women's education pioneer M. Carey Thomas is born in Baltimore.

Although she was denied educational opportunities because of her sex, M. Carey Thomas went on to make a lasting mark on women's education and further their independence from men. "If it were only possible for women to select women as well as men for a life's love, all reason for an intellectual woman's marriage would be gone," she once asserted.

Thomas was born in Baltimore in January 1857 to devout Quaker parents. At age 15, she persuaded her father to allow her to attend a Quaker boarding school for girls in Ithaca, New York. After she promised him that she would avoid contact with male students, he permitted her to enroll at Cornell University, where she graduated in 1877.

Upon her return to Baltimore, Thomas's cousin introduced her to a group of young women – including Mamie Gwinn and Mary Garrett, heiress to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad fortune – who formed a philosophical discussion group called the Friday Night

club.

Thomas sought admission to Johns Hopkins University, where her father was a trustee, to pursue graduate studies in Greek. Although she was allowed to receive tutoring from the faculty, she was prohibited from attending regular classes and quit after a year. With Gwinn as her companion, she traveled to Germany to enroll at the University of Leipzig, but was denied a degree because she was a woman. She finally earned her

Ph.D. from the University of Zurich in 1882.

Back in the United States, Thomas applied for the presidency of Bryn Mawr, a newly established women's college, but the post was given to a man. Instead, she became the college's first dean and a professor of English.

Although she never publicly identified as a lesbian, Thomas shared a romantic friendship and a home on the Bryn Mawr campus with Gwinn, who also taught English. In addition, Thomas had a passionate relationship with Garrett, while Gwinn was also involved with a male English professor, Alfred Hodder. Thomas and Gwinn's relationship ended in 1904 when Gwinn married Hodder, after which Garrett took up residence with Thomas. (The love triangle of Thomas, Gwinn, and



M. Carey Thomas

Hodder was memorialized in *Fernhurst*, one of Gertrude Stein's first novellas.)

Relying on Thomas's persuasive skills and Garrett's money, the erstwhile Friday Night club started a college preparatory school for girls and raised several hundred thousand dollars for the founding of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, on the condition that it admit women on the same terms as men.

Influenced by Garrett's promise of financial support, the board of trustees appointed Thomas president of Bryn Mawr, a position she held from 1894 until 1922. Thomas became one of the most prominent advocates for women's education. She was also an advocate for women's suffrage, a proponent of an equal

next page ►

Political editor Wayne Friday is taking some well-deserved time off.



Past Out

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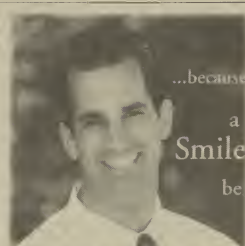
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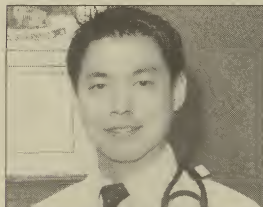
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# Robberies hit Castro

by Jane Warner

A series of robberies happened last week and police believe three of the incidents may involve some of the same suspects.

On January 5 at about 5:45 a.m., a man walking on Duboce Street near Steiner noticed a vehicle pull up alongside him. A man described as African American, 20-25 years old wearing a brown baseball cap, a blue puffy jacket, and black pants, got out of the passenger side of an older red Nissan two-door Sentra and approached the man on foot. The suspect stuck a handgun in the victim's stomach and demanded his wallet. Fearing for his life, the victim complied and handed over his black leather bi-fold that contained miscellaneous identification, but no money. "Get walking before I shoot," the robber told him and got back into the Nissan. The car was driven by another person the victim could not see and fled northbound on Steiner Street.

Two days later on January 7 at 9:45 p.m., a woman driving her car with three passengers was stopped at the light at Castro and 24th streets when a black four-door Dodge Intrepid pulled up along side them. The Dodge, driven by a woman, also contained three male passengers. "Where's the party at?" one of the male passengers yelled. The group replied there was no

party and drove off southbound on Castro. The black Intrepid followed at a close distance. Frightened, the group drove around trying to lose the vehicle. As they turned a corner they pulled into a garage at 28th and Noe, turning off the car lights. After a few minutes, they didn't see the Dodge and started to reverse but the suspect's vehicle pulled in behind them. The assailants got out of the Dodge and one man opened the driver's side door of the group's car. "Why are you running from us?" he asked and pulled a silver handgun from his pants pocket. "Give us all your stuff."

The victims handed over cell phones, wallets, about \$300 in Christmas gift cards and four \$100 bills.

After taking the victims' property, the suspects got back into the Dodge and fled northbound on Noe Street. One of the men is described as African American, 18-25 years old, 5 feet 7 inches, 150 pounds with black braided hair, and wore a black beanie cap and olive green zip-up hoodie. The other two male suspects were also African American, in their 20s. One was 6 feet 2 inches, 220 pounds; the other, 5 feet 7 inches, 160 pounds. The female suspect wore a black sweatshirt, had silver front teeth, and drove the car.

That same night, about an hour later at 10:45 p.m., a man walking near Cala Foods in the Castro was approached by three men, one of whom pointed a small silver handgun at his stom-

ach and demanded money. The man handed over his wallet containing credit cards, identification, and \$6. The suspects ran to a parked Chevy Impala on Diamond Street and were last seen driving northbound toward Market Street. The gunman is described by the victim as African American, 25-30 years old, 5 feet 11 inches, 170 pounds and wore dark clothes. The other two suspects were also African American, also in their 20s.

Police believe all three robberies may be related and ask anyone with information regarding these crimes to call (415) 553-1201.

### 'This is an AK-47'

Sorrento Sun Center, 329 Noe Street, January 5, 7:17 p.m.: In another unrelated robbery, a man walked into Sorrento Sun Center and went to the back of the store. A clerk approached the man and asked if he needed any help. "Yes," he replied, "this is a robbery." Fearing for her safety, the clerk opened the cash register and handed the robber about \$200. The suspect then ordered her to the back room and lifted a cloth he had draped over his right hand, revealing a butt of a large assault rifle. "This is an AK-47," the suspect said. "Do you know what happens to people with these? Now, get in the back and don't say a word." The clerk went to the back room and closed the door. The suspect—described as a white male, 55-60 years old, 5 feet 5 inches, 130 pounds with white hair and blue eyes wearing a white baseball cap, army green trench coat and blue jeans—fled the store in an unknown direction. ▼

## Newsom divorce

◀ page 3

gay marriage fight. But, she said, it wouldn't surprise her to hear such criticism from the conservative camps.

"It may well be in a complete fit of hypocrisy that the right would point to the mayor's impending divorce to undermine his credibility," said Kendell. "Straight

people and same-sex people break up and get divorced. It will be interesting to see what they [the right] do. It's a little bit of a land mine for them."

Thus far, however, the most vocal criticism of Newsom's divorce may be coming from certain factions of the LGBT community. Kendell noted that she was on a panel discussing same-sex marriage last week with a right-wing legal scholar, and that no one on

the panel or in the audience mentioned Newsom's impending divorce. At press time, there was no mention of the Newsom divorce from groups like the Christian Coalition or Focus on the Family, although neither group thought Newsom had much credibility on the gay marriage issue in the first place. Newsom's spokesman Peter Ragone did not return repeated e-mail and phone call requests for comment. ▼

## Past Out

◀ previous page

rights amendment to the Constitution, and a peace activist. But not all her views were progressive. A supporter of the eugenics movement, she touted the intellectual superiority of whites and discriminated against African American and Jewish applicants to Bryn

Mawr.

Thomas spent her later years pursuing her interests in literature, the arts, and travel, accompanied by Edith Lowber, with whom she began a relationship a decade after Garrett's death from leukemia in 1915. Thomas died of heart failure in December 1935, and her ashes are buried in a library named in her honor on the Bryn Mawr campus. ▼

### Suggested reading

Horowitz, Helen Lefkowitz. 1994. *The Power and Passion of M. Carey Thomas* (Knopf).  
Dobkin, Marjorie Housepian, ed. 1980. *The Making of a Feminist: Early Journals and Letters of M. Carey Thomas* (Kent State).

## AIDS LifeCycle riders gear up



Jane Pridgen/Cleant

A crowd of AIDS LifeCycle participants listens to speakers at a kickoff event held Saturday, January 8 at the W Hotel. The 585-mile bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles is sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and takes place June 5-11. Registration is up over 35 percent from this time last year, with 1,561 riders signed up so far, according to Redge Norton with SFAF. Norton said interested people can still take part in the event; visit [www.aidslifecycle.org](http://www.aidslifecycle.org) for more information.



# HHS official Claude Allen moves to White House

by Bob Roehr

Claude Allen will become the chief domestic policy adviser in the Bush White House, according to an announcement made on January 5. Gay and AIDS advocates are concerned by the possible implications for community issues.

Allen, 44, is a social conservative and African American. He has served the last four years as the number two person at the Department of Health and Human Services, where he has been a strong supporter of abstinence-only HIV prevention programs and restrictions on abortions.

The agency also has conducted audits of AIDS service organizations and activities that many within the community have characterized as harassing in nature.

Allen was nominated to be a federal judge on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2003. But Maryland's two Democratic senators blocked the nomination with the claim that the seat traditionally had been filled by a Marylander. Other Democrats supported their position, as they did not wish to see yet another strong conservative vote added to what many ob-



Claude Allen

servers see as the most conservative federal circuit court in the country.

Allen served as Virginia's secretary of health in the 1990s. In the 1980s he was one of the first black staffers for conservative former Senator Jesse Helms. As press secretary during Helms's 1984 reelection race, Allen said that Helms's opponent had ties to "queers" and "radical feminists."

Allen was asked about those remarks during his judicial confirmation hearing. He said that he

did not believe the words were derogatory, nor had he intend to use them in a derogatory manner.

That has not allayed the concerns of community advocates, who remember that Gary Bauer used the same White House position to influence policy decisions during the Reagan administration.

"I hope it is not a sign of social policy for this administration," said Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS.

Dave Noble, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats, said, "Claude Allen has advanced ideological extremes in family policy that have endangered the health of gay youth. His record indicates that he would prompt the White House to promote antigay policy and attitude within the administration. We are troubled by this appointment."

"There is widespread concern since the position can be a great bully pulpit and it's assumed that this is payback to neocons and conservatives who worked very hard on voter turnout for Bush," said Bill Arnold with the ADAP Working Group. "On the other hand this administration keeps a very tight control on what its people say, so I guess we wait and see." ▼

# HRC releases names of search committee members

by Bob Roehr

The search committee to select the next executive director of the Human Rights Campaign contained no surprises when it was released to the public on Thursday, January 6.

It originally had been announced as a 25-member committee but when the names were made public there were only 24. HRC spokesman Steven Fisher said that some prospective members felt they could not make the required time commitment, but none of those who had agreed to serve had a problem with their name being made public.

"There is no one missing," Fisher said.

He said the final composition is still a bit fluid and "one or two names might be added before the committee holds its first meeting." Two more names were added late Tuesday, bringing the total to 26.

Most of the members are drawn from the HRC and the HRC Foundation boards of directors. It includes one openly transgender person, Donna Rose, a member of the HRC Business Council who resides in Round Rock, Texas.

## HRC search committee members

Gwen Baba, Board of Directors co-chair, Los Angeles, CA  
Vic Basile, Foundation Board co-chair, Baltimore, MD  
Joe Barrows, BOD, Denver, CO  
Bruce Bastian, BOD, Orem, UT  
Terry Bean, FD, Portland, OR  
Mike Berman, BOD co-chair, Washington, D.C.  
Ken Britt, BOD, Atlanta, GA  
Lawrie Demorest, FD co-chair, Atlanta, GA  
Amy Errett, BOD, San Francisco, CA  
Anne Fay, Board of Governors co-chair, Dallas, TX  
Emily Giske, BOD, New York, NY  
Everett Hamilton, former BOD, Washington, DC  
Julie Johnson, BOD, Dallas, TX  
Kevin Layton, General Counsel, Washington, D.C.  
Marty Lieberman, BOD, Seattle, WA  
Andrew Linsky, BOD, Palm Springs, CA  
David Medina, BOD, Washington, D.C.  
Cathy Nelson, Development Director, Washington, D.C.  
Victoria Raymont, BOD, Chicago, IL  
Henry Rosales, BOD co-chair, Denver, CO  
Donna Rose, HRC Business Council, Round Rock, TX  
Hilary Rosen, FD, Washington, D.C.  
Winnie Stachelberg, Political Director, Washington, D.C.  
John Sullivan, BOD, Minneapolis, MN  
Tony Varona, BOD, Tuckahoe, NY  
David Wilson, BOD, Boston, MA

San Francisco activist Michael Petrelis, who first raised the transparency issue that led to releasing the search committee names, suggested that HRC might have included non-HRC members as part of the search process. Part of his rationale is that the organization often speaks on behalf of the broader gay community and not just its members.

He pointed to the example of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Last December, when it announced a search committee to identify the successor to outgoing President Kweisi Mfume, it included several people who were not part of that organization's governing board.

HRC was not prepared to comment on whether it considered including outside members on the search committee as the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press.

Three HRC staff members are part of the search committee, which no doubt reflects staff management issues that reportedly arose under former HRC President Cheryl Jacques's tenure and contributed to her departure after only 11 months in the position.

Among the three staff members is Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's longtime political director. She was believed to be one of the finalists to become executive director during the previous search process. Presumably, she is not a candidate for the position during this round of hiring.

"If anyone on the search committee were to become a candidate, they would have to leave the search committee at that point in time," Fisher said. ▼



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# Gay cable channel Q TV gets set to expand

by Matthew S. Bajko

As media giant Viacom continues to work on its planned gay channel LOGO, the Q Television Network is already on the air in three markets and set to expand to more this year.

Last November 1, Q Television began airing free and unscrambled to RCN cable subscribers in San Francisco, Boston, and New York City. The channel will convert to a subscriber service at the end of January and by mid-year plans on being in 35 percent of the country, adding 15 major cities, such as Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Chicago, New Orleans, and Washington D.C.

"Look at the blue states and the blue cities and we'll be there," said Frank Olsen, CEO and president of the channel.

The channel cost \$20 million to launch, and advertisers have included Time Life Music, TriOral Dental Care, Life Alert, Tupperware, and the *Fitness Made Simple* workout video.

Still not yet widely known to the gay community, the channel received a major boost in its visibility when David Letterman mocked the channel with his "Top 10 List" on his program Monday, January 10. Some of the shows Letterman joked the channel aired included "Everybody loves Raymond ... especially Steve," "CSI: San Francisco," "Desperate Housewives," and "My wife and kids ... have no idea."

"Awareness is growing as we continue to be recognized as the gay network of choice by celebrities and the general public," said Olsen.

In San Francisco, access to the channel is limited. According to RCN's Web site, the cable provider serves the city's Noe Valley, Castro, Diamond Heights, Potrero Hill, and Mission districts as well as five Peninsula cities. It airs Q Television on digital channel 255.

Producers of local gay cable programs say they do not see the cable channel as direct competition. Tim Gaskin, producer and host of *Out Spoken*, which focuses on San Francisco's LGBT community and began airing on Comcast cable around the same time as Q Television's debut, said it is just a coincidence.

"They are just not related," said Gaskin of the two launches. "Comcast will always put on gay



Nick Oram, host of *Q on the Move*

programming but they need a producer to bring them the content. I developed it on my own and they happily agreed to air it."

Unlike the national channels, which are business ventures, Gaskin's show is an all-volunteer produced endeavor.

"Comcast is obligated to provide community programming, so my program is community-service oriented," he said. "It is not based on ratings or competition; it is based on commitment."

Since the show began airing, Gaskin said the community has begun to embrace it. At first, he had trouble convincing people it would not be exploitative.

"It's been hard to get the support I need," he said last month.

Now that the show has aired several episodes, Gaskin said reaction has been positive. And he said he hopes to take the show weekly in February or March.

"There is enough content to run the program weekly," he said.

Q Television is also set to expand its programming this year, including *Good Morning Gay America*, which will air live, every weekday for two hours starting at 9 a.m. EST (6 a.m. PST) in February. The show will be hosted by two co-anchors with an additional 25 news correspondents located throughout the country contributing to the show.

Its travelogue show *Q on the Move*, hosted by former daytime soap star Nick Oram, will be in San Francisco later this month to shoot two episodes about the local gay scene. Oram already taped segments on Los Angeles, Seattle, and Washington D.C. As host of one of the channel's signature

programs, Oram has also become a spokesman for Q Television.

In a phone interview while shooting the D.C. program in December, he said he opted to take a chance with the fledgling network in order to reach LGBT youth in cities and towns that are not as welcoming as San Francisco.

"I want to reach that boy or girl in the Midwest or wherever who's having gay thoughts or is closeted and doesn't realize what it is like in the rest of the country and world and isn't truly connected to the rest of the world," said Oram, who had a recurring role in the NBC soap *Passions* in 2002. "I want them to know it is okay to be gay and that they don't have to be identified with the drag queen walking down a Pride parade. You can be a functioning, young male adult living a fairly normal lifestyle."

The channel also airs other original shows, including *Women on Women*, a women's talk show covering subjects of interest to all women — straight, bisexual, and lesbian — and *In Focus*, a biweekly biography series featuring celebrities, gay icons, and gay topics.

"As far as programming, we want to be different — and entertaining. We want to be the gay Fox," explained Olsen.

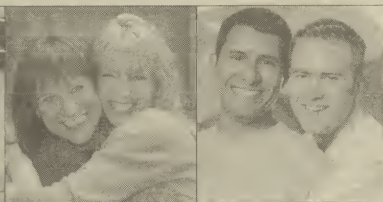
In December, Chicago organizers of Gay Games VII signed a contract with Q Television Network granting the new gay network television, radio, and Internet broadcast rights in a deal valued at more than \$3.2 million. During the sports and cultural festival, set to take place July 15-22, 2006, Q Television will unscramble its signal to give broad-based access to live and taped coverage of the ceremonies and sporting events.

The deal — \$1.7 million in cash plus more than \$1.5 million in advertising and programming benefits — is the largest-ever sponsorship of an LGBT event, said Gay Games organizers.

"Our partnership with Q Television will ensure international visibility for the Gay Games movement throughout the next two years," said Tracy Baim, Chicago Games Inc. co-vice chair, in a statement announcing the deal. ▼

For more information on programming and subscriptions visit [www.qtelevision.com](http://www.qtelevision.com).

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# AIDS activists chart next course

by Bob Roeher

The seeds of AIDS activism's rebirth may have been sown during a meeting of about 125 activists from around the country January 4-5 in Washington, D.C.

What was originally billed as a planning session for a May march on Washington morphed into something that is broader and more expansive.



Michael Kink

"The larger goal is to revitalize and reenergize the AIDS activist movement across the country," said Michael Kink, with Housing Works in New York, one of the principal organizers of the meeting.

AIDS activism arose in the depths of the crisis in the mid-1980s and helped to push numerous changes such as shortening the drug approval process at the Food and Drug Administration; making the research process more open and accountable to community concerns; and dramatically increasing funding for AIDS services.

The introduction of new anti-HIV drugs, beginning with protease inhibitors in the mid-1990s, had a major medical impact on the disease and stimulated a massive increase in federal funding to assure access to the drugs.

But those very successes also

allowed a sense of domestic complacency to develop, while the continued horrors of AIDS in the developing world drew attention overseas.

Domestically, the number of Americans living with HIV continues to grow, as do their needs for expensive services. That more Americans living with HIV are alive, healthy, and productive than at any time in the past testifies to the success of those programs. But private donations to AIDS groups have declined and government funding has not kept pace with the steadily increasing caseload.

AIDS advocates see 2005 as a crucial year because of reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act that funds a large portion of AIDS services, and an escalating crisis with underfunding of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

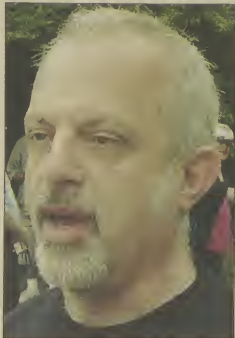
There also is a serious threat to Medicaid, which provides another large portion of AIDS care nationally. Possible Social Security and welfare reform also could have an impact.

"I think the fact that the Republicans won again in November crystallized the fact that we've got to do something new and different," said longtime Los Angeles AIDS activist Walt Senterfit.

"The political environment has changed in Washington," explained Paul Feldman. Tax cuts and demands for the war in Iraq have made it increasingly difficult to get increased funding for any social program. "We have to demand of our friends that they make AIDS a priority," he said.

Feldman, with the National Association of People With AIDS, an organizer of the meeting, called it "historic ... an amazing diverse group of people from all over the country." It was a sentiment expressed by most of those who attended.

Colm Hegarty is with the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, a smaller AIDS services organization in San Francisco. The epicenter of new infections in that city is among drug users. He came to the Washington meeting because "we felt that we needed to be at the table and those perspectives need-



NAPWA's Paul Feldman

ed to be represented."

Hegarty heard "a lot of heated discussion," particularly around "reframing the arguments" in trying to seize the moral high ground in public discussions. He argues that AIDS "is a moral issue as well as a medical issue." The public discourse must be shifted from the "immorality" of drug use and out-of-wedlock sex to the morality of caring for people, he said.

That is one of the reasons why AIDSWatch is considering adding a faith-based session as part of its May lobbying activities.

Senterfit spoke with many people prior to coming to the meeting and found, "Not a lot of people

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## Lutherans

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Johnson took place January 20, 1990 at the former St. Paulus Church at Gough and Eddy streets. The church later burned down in a November 1995 fire.

Partners Zillhart and Frost graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Johnson graduated from Berkeley's Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, one of the nine schools in the Graduate Theological Union.

Following the ordinations, the St. Francis and First United churches were put on trial that summer and suspended from ELCA for five years until either the two churches or Lutheran administrators changed course. When that did not happen, ELCA expelled them both.

An expelled church is automatically dropped from the congregation registry in the 5 million-member, 11,000 church ELCA headquartered in Chicago.

Zillhart and Frost are still pastors at St. Francis while Johnson has led Berkeley's University Lutheran Chapel since 1999. In April 2000, the Northern California bishop delivered Johnson's

church an admonition, a censure for ecclesiastical disobedience.

A task force will release findings today (Thursday, January 13), of a four-year study conducted throughout ELCA concerning ordination of non-celibate LGBT clergy and the blessing of same-sex unions. The ELCA national body will consider the task force's recommendations at a convention in Florida in August.

"It's hard to be hopeful," said Egertson, citing the national church council's resolution stipulating that any change in policy requires two-thirds approval.

Both Zillhart and Egertson called the study — one of several in recent Lutheran history, and which they have not endorsed — an overly-cautious, handy deflector by the church that fears a positive outcome, to avoid action and risk splitting the wider church.

LLGM requested panel representation from someone who declined the celibacy vow, but the task force refused. The panel includes a gay man who accepted the celibacy vow.

As soon as LLGM started defying church policy Egertson said, the church formed one task force, then disbanded it. In 2001 an Indianapolis national assembly de-

bated a Twin Cities lesbian pastor, deciding to table voting on the issue.

"No, let's study it," Egertson said, mocking the church members' attitude.

"For LGBT people if feels like you get put off. It keeps it on this treadmill," said Zillhart. "As more congregations live with enough dissonance, the church might as well redraw the boundaries."

A big hurdle, she said, is that there are more LGBT seminary graduates than congregations to call them.

Zillhart believes LGBT people choose a course of religious education because people who face challenges and rejection have an interest in seeing the spiritual side of things and advocating for justice. Many also see the opportunity of service, creating solidarity and a spiritual community.

"I have to believe it isn't just people who love to suffer," said Zillhart, laughing. "I really want to believe God calls people to ministry who are different more often. God is recognized when you fit in less."

"Personally I think churches and the military are the frontlines of our fight," said Egertson. "The secular press has paid a little more attention."

Of the LGBT community he said, "A lot of people think it's totally irrelevant. It's happening below the radar screen."

"The radical right has co-opted [the words] 'religion' and 'Christian' in a very negative way," said Egertson. "Within the church there is a real conflict between fundamentalism and the more progressive movement."

Zillhart believes the role of LGBT religious people in reframing the country's "moral backlash" is as an advantageous wedge for social change and mutual respect.

"I think we're on the cutting edge of that," she said. "What we're dealing with is authentic humanity. We get to the heart of sexist assumptions. It's about being real, not hiding, affirming life at the basic level, rather than just playing roles."

To do otherwise, she said, "gives you a peace that has no peace, a white-washed building that you don't leave, with no meaning, just a facade." ▼

Events marking the LLGM anniversary take place at St. Francis Lutheran Church at 152 Church Street on Saturday, starting at 10 a.m. They include an archive display, a film, a \$6 buffet brunch at noon followed by a panel discussion on events leading up to the 1990 ordinations, development of the Extraordinary Candidacy Project, LLGM's development into a national mission society, how to call a candidate from the ECP roster, and a celebratory service at 3:30 p.m.

The gala banquet starts with a no-host cocktail reception at 5:45 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, 1101 Van Ness Avenue, at Geary Boulevard. Tickets are \$125 and can be reserved by calling St. Francis Lutheran Church at (415) 621-2635.

The Reverend David Kalke, the San Bernardino pastor who hired Mason, will also receive a Voice of Distinction Award Saturday. Other honorees include Marybelle Smith, a founder of the San Francisco chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and longtime LLGM board member Joe McMahon.

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## Oakland

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construction of the city's Splashpad Park and in 2002, he drafted Measure DD and led the campaign to pass the \$200 million bond measure to fund improvements and access to Lake Merritt and nine miles of waterfront.

He also helped see to passage an equal-access ordinance to require providing information on basic city services in multi-languages and an equal benefits ordinance requiring city contractors to provide domestic partnership benefits to employees.

Pointing to Oakland having the second largest concentration of LGBT residents of any city in the state and a large lesbian population, Wan pushed to see the formation of a gay business district in the city and created a LGBT roundtable, bringing community leaders to the same table to tackle issues.

During a brief interview in his City Hall office, Wan said that for the last two years the stresses of his personal life "have been on my mind" and deciding to leave has been a difficult process. But he said he feels he is leaving behind a foundation on which Oakland's LGBT community can build.

"I hope people don't see my departure as the end of the conversation," he said. "For the first time various parts of the community have gotten together and looked at our issues."

His leaving the council stunned many in the community, but supporters said Wan had been talking about stepping down for the last three months. While they wish him well, they contend his departure is a loss for both the LGBT community and the city of Oakland.

"It's a great loss. He was a great public leader. I wrote him a note that said come back soon, when he can," said state Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata (D-Oakland), a close friend of Wan's who recruited him for the EBMUD board and backed his moving into higher office. "I was so impressed, we twisted his arm to run for city council."

Openly gay Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington said while colleagues knew Wan was mulling over leaving, his departure mid-term came as a surprise to many people in the East Bay LGBT community.

"A lot of people were thinking he would not run for re-election and were not thinking he would actually, seriously quit," said Worthington. "It's potentially good for him if it opens a way for him to run for city attorney."

AC Transit board member Rebecca Kaplan, an out lesbian who ran unsuccessfully for the City Council's at-large seat in 2000, said some people are upset with Wan's decision while others see it as an interesting moment in the maturation of the city's LGBT community.

"Danny was selected by some people but now the LGBT community has matured and is ready to pick its own leaders," said Kaplan. "I think some people are upset with Danny but it's more about inconvenience than any deep feelings that this is wrong. It is more like 'Oh God, we have to go through another election.'"

"No matter how anybody feels about going through another election, let's turn lemons into lemon meringue pie," she added.

As chair of the political action committee of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, Worthington is holding a meeting on January 29 to discuss potential

candidates to replace Wan on the council. Under city rules, an election to fill a vacancy must be held within 120 days of the resignation.

While the dates have yet to be finalized by the council, city officials suggested last week that candidates would have until February 18 to file paperwork and the election could take place May 17, though a sooner date is possible.

## Candidates

Wan's open seat in District 2 already has several candidates vying to become the next representative of parts of Oakland's Lake Merritt, Grand Lake, and Chinatown neighborhoods. The district is known as one of the Bay Area's most diverse and many LGBT people call it home.

Out lesbian Peggy Moore, 41, an outreach specialist with Laverne Seniors East Bay and the founder of Sistahs Steppin' in Pride, has thrown her name into the race. Originally from Oklahoma City, Moore moved to San Francisco 10 years ago and eight years ago settled in Oakland. She credited Wan with being able to represent all the various communities that reside in his district.

"I was shocked he was leaving, surprised because he is a major ally for us. We had seen such



Candidate Peggy Moore

major accomplishments this past year in the East Bay," said Moore. "He was instrumental in bringing a lot of leaders together in the East Bay gay community. We needed him but I understand his reasoning for leaving; he has to take care of his family."

Moore has already lined up the support of Kaplan, who said she has been impressed with Moore's achievements as a volunteer and founder of Out in Oakland and the city's dyke march.

"I have been impressed by her ability to bring people together

and inspire people to get involved. Imagine what she could do if she had City Hall and a staff behind her," said Kaplan.

Another possible candidate is openly gay Michael Colbruno, 44, a former aide to both former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and former Assemblywoman and current state Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), who currently is vice president for governmental affairs at Clear Channel Outdoor. As of press time, Colbruno said he was 90 percent certain he would run for the seat.

"I have seen in general our agenda does not move forward without our people in place," said Colbruno as to why he wants to run. "Danny is the only person from our community on that city council. It is important to have a voice there. I don't see any other credible candidates from our community who can put themselves out there and run a successful campaign."

On Monday, Colbruno said he wanted to talk to more people about his candidacy, including Moore. He reasoned it would be better to have only one gay candidate in the race than two LGBT people who would split the gay vote.

"If we can concentrate the

LGBT vote it may be enough to win that seat. I am not going to be selfish about it."

Openly gay Daryl Carey has also been approached about running for the seat. Carey previously worked as a council member's staff person eight years ago and currently runs get out the vote operations for the state Democratic Party.

Whoever from the LGBT community does decide to enter the race, they will be up against two formidable straight candidates, Wan's chief of staff Pat Kernighan, who has lived in the Grand Lake area of Oakland with her husband and daughters since 1983; and Pamela Drake, a District 2 resident for 20 years, in both the San Antonio and the Lakeshore areas, and an Oakland resident since 1973.

Having worked in City Hall for a number of years, Kernighan is seen as having an edge in the race and has Wan's endorsement, according to an e-mail he sent out to EBL/GDC members last week. But Kaplan said it is anyone's to win.

"The fact Danny's chief of staff appears to be anointed here is not so. The council insiders can't replace the council person, that was changed," she said. "Voters in the district get to pick their council person. ▼"

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## 'New' STD spreading among gay men

by Aaron J. Cohen

Just when you thought the sexual arena was filled with all the challenges you could take, there's a new sexually transmitted disease that has arrived in San Francisco. As the Bay Area Reporter reported last month, the Department of Public Health announced that four cases of lymphogranuloma venereum have been detected in gay men over the last several months. LGV is a rare form of chlamydia.

Actually, this STD is not new, but until recently this particular infection was usually only found in tropical regions and was very rare elsewhere. However, all it takes is one or two men with frequent flyer miles to change that.

Last year there was an outbreak of LGV reported among sexually active gay men in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Cases have now been reported in Houston and Atlanta, in addition to San Francisco.

If left untreated, this infection can lead to severe rectal inflammation (proctitis), among other things. So far, it's been reported that the majority of the gay men with LGV are HIV-positive with numerous sexual partners, who

have been engaging in unprotected anal intercourse and unprotected fisting.

### What is LGV?

LGV is caused by a specific variety of the chlamydia bacteria.

During the first phase (three to 12 days after infection), there is often a small blister or sore where you were infected through contact. This sore may be on your penis, your anus, or in your throat. This is usually painless and may go unnoticed. You might also develop urethritis, which makes it painful to urinate. So far, these symptoms sound pretty familiar and you may easily mistake LGV for gonorrhea.

Or, at this stage, you might not even notice it at all. The more obvious symptoms show up later. It is also possible that you will never develop any symptoms. Look for rashes, ulcers, and blisters. This is how LGV is spread, though it may also be passed to others when no symptoms have (yet) developed.

In the second phase (after 10 to 30 days, and sometimes longer), inflamed and swollen lymph glands can follow. You will begin to feel generally ill and you might have a fever.

The other symptoms depend on where the bacteria entered your body.

If you were infected at the penis, along with urethritis you may have painfully swollen lymph nodes in the groin area. Your lymph glands may swell and ultimately break through your skin in order to drain pus. In 60 percent of the cases, this only affects one side.

If you were infected anally, LGV can create painful ulcers and an inflamed rectum. The inflammation (proctitis) is accompanied by a fever and you will feel ill. In the beginning, your anus will itch and discharge a slimy substance. Later, ulcers, abscesses, and narrowing may develop in the anal passage. There is also a discharge of blood or pus from your anus, pain during defecation, and constipation.

If left untreated, the symptoms can become more severe.

On the penis, scar tissue resulting from the inflammation can block the flow from lymph nodes,

causing your genitals to swell up.

In the anus, there may be narrowing in and around your anus. You may develop hemorrhoid-like bumps that are filled with lymphatic fluid instead of blood. These will need to be drained by a doctor.

### HIV and hepatitis C

If you are HIV-negative, LGV can cause sores that can increase your risk of contracting HIV and other STDs. If you are HIV-positive, your immune system is already weakened, making you more susceptible to LGV to begin with.

LGV can make it easier to contract hepatitis C. This type of hepatitis becomes chronic in 80 percent of all infections, often leading to cirrhosis and liver failure if untreated. There is a treatment for hepatitis C (alpha interferon) but it is not always successful and there is no vaccine.

Normally hepatitis C is transmitted when needles are shared during intravenous drug use, but it can also be transmitted during sex when there is blood-blood contact, which is a lot more likely to happen among people infected with LGV.

### Testing

Early detection and treatment of LGV can prevent lasting damage to your health.

Go and get tested for chlamydia. If you test negative for chlamydia you do not have LGV. If you test positive for chlamydia and you have symptoms that might indicate LGV or if you had a sex partner who has LGV, you will need to be tested specifically for LGV.

### Treatment

Unlike "standard" chlamydia, LGV cannot be treated with a simple dose of antibiotic treatment.

Recommended regimen: Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice a day for 21 days.

Alternative regimen: Erythromycin base 500 mg orally four times a day for 21 days.

You cannot develop immunity to LGV, which means that you can always contract it again. That is another reason why it is important that your sex partners are told, and get tested as well. Otherwise, you may re-infect yourself

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# AIDS activists

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ple were excited about yet another march on Washington where a whole lot of money and energy is dedicated to something that is a big poof on one day, and everything rides on whether or not it gets any press. Often that is not proportionate to the effort."

Kink acknowledged some contentious discussions at the meeting but said, "The conflict was people who really wanted to work with one another and get their issues heard." They were looking for ways to make that happen.

To Senterfit, "The intent is to not only reinvigorate activism at the grassroots but to spread the movement into places across the country that are politically as well as epidemiologically important — those red states," and to revitalize local media coverage of HIV/AIDS.

Through an extended discussion process the group came to understand that while closer East Coast communities might be able to master the logistics of a May event in Washington, it would be more difficult for organizations from distant locations. "Building coalitions with national organizations such as the AARP takes time," said Hegarty, referring to the American Association of Retired Persons.

What emerged from the meeting is "an increased mobilization for AIDSWatch, May 2-4," Feldman said. Organizers hope to increase participation to 2,000, add another day to the program, and refocus training away from the process of how to lobby, to a deeper understanding of the issues themselves.

Organizers also hope to add skills-building sessions around community organizing, in part to mobilize for the larger caravan or march that is to culminate in

Washington, D.C. over the Columbus Day weekend, October 8-12.

Feldman believes the idea of caravans from various parts of the country converging on the Capitol over that weekend will succeed in creating greater public awareness of domestic AIDS needs. Crucial to this success is properly training the participants to better communicate their stories to reporters. "Why, in the midst of being sick, of being poor, they are using their energy to get themselves to D.C. — I think that is really, really powerful," he said.

The meeting participants acknowledged a variety of perspectives and tactics within the AIDS community. And even while airing their grievances, they chose to focus on what unites rather than what divides them. ▼

**To join the listserv on reinvigorating AIDS activism, visit: <http://groups.yahoo>.**

## John Alexander Michaelson



A sharp wit, passion for education and wide-ranging intellect marked the life of John. He passed away 12/25 at his home in the Mission District.

John was born March 12, 1952 in Seattle, WA. His family moved to San Francisco in 1962; during high school a trip to Mexico led to an affinity for Latin cultures and languages.

He was a graduate of Piner HS in Santa Rosa, San Francisco State University and Stanford University, where he obtained a Masters in Education. He served in teaching and as a principal in the SF Unified School District for almost 30 years.

John is survived by his loving parents, John H. and Patricia Michaelson of Seattle, loving sisters Nancy (Celms) of Bothell, WA, Barbara (Barclay) of Bothell and Susan (Rincon) of Lake Stevens, WA; loving brothers Thomas and James, both of Sacramento, and Robert of Seattle, as well as ten nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial will be held January 15th, 2005, 11 a.m. at the Green Room of the War Memorial Building near Civic Center. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Marina Middle School Outdoor Ed Program and Martin de Porres Kitchen.

**Marco D. Puliz**  
Jan. 19, 1963 — Dec. 25, 2004



Marco passed away from a cancerous brain tumor on Christmas morning in his mother's home in Sacramento, California. Prior to moving to Miami in 1999, Marco lived and loved in San Francisco for many wonderful years. He was a loving, generous and successful man who lived a life of hope and courage. Marco greeted each day with enthusiasm

and warmth. He is missed dearly by the legion of friends and family across the country that was drawn to his magnetic personality.

Friends are invited to gather in Miami and San Francisco to celebrate the life of Marco Puliz.

Miami: Saturday, January 15, 3:00 p.m., at Unity on the Bay Church, 411 NE 21st St. Reception at Marco's house to follow at 5:00 p.m., at 726 NE 72nd Terrace, Miami, FL 33138.

San Francisco: Saturday, February 19, 3:00 p.m., at St. Gregory's Church, 500 De Haro St. (at Mariposa). Reception to follow immediately after the service at St. Gregory's.

The Puliz family will honor Marco in a private ceremony to be held in Sacramento, California, on his birthday, January 19, 2005.

Marco's family is very grateful for the outpouring of love and concern for Marco. In lieu of sending flowers, the family asks that all remembrances be sent to the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Marco's name.

Cards or letters of sympathy are appropriate and warmly received. To visit the guest book online, go to: [www.herald.com/obituaries](http://www.herald.com/obituaries)

## Garrett memorial Sat.

Friends will gather Saturday, January 15 to remember famed DJ Michael Garrett, who died in his sleep December 10. He was 52.

Mr. Garrett, who grew up outside Austin, Texas, came to San Francisco around 1976. Garrett achieved fame playing at the I-Beam, Trocadero, Galleria, and Giffcenter parties. During the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, Mr. Garrett's Sunday tea dances were the only dance parties in town.

Steve Fabus, a longtime friend, said Saturday's memorial would be "a comfortable gathering to share our memories of Michael's spirit. Music will be vintage Michael Garrett I-Beam tea dance sets and memorabilia is welcomed."

The memorial takes place at Moby Dick, 4089 18th Street in the Castro, beginning at 2 p.m.

## To Your Health

◀ previous page

from a partner that you had previously infected. This may mean notifying every person you've had sex with in the past 30 days.

### Preventing LGV

There are steps people can take to prevent LGV:

Use a condom and water-based lube for anal sex.

Always use latex gloves for fisting. If you fist more than one partner a night, change gloves each time.

Only use "toys" that have not been used by or for someone else.

Since oral sex also carries a

risk, you might consider using a condom if you have oral sex.

Carefully washing after engaging in sexual activity may reduce the risk of infection.

### Bottom line

For all of you out there who had given up on condoms because you were unafraid of the risks, you may want to think again. You now have one more particularly nasty reason to make sure that you play safe.

### A note to readers

In writing this regular health column for the B.A.R., it is my intention to provide the community with useful, understandable information that promotes good health and well-being. Please send

any suggestions to me at: [HealthUpdate@comcast](mailto:HealthUpdate@comcast).

This column is not intended to treat or diagnose any conditions. It is meant solely to provide information on topics of interest to the community. Please address any questions you might have regarding your own condition(s) or treatment(s) to your physician or other health care practitioner. ▼

**Aaron J. Cohen holds a master's degree of public health in community health education and is a certified health education specialist. Previous columns can be viewed in their entirety on the Web at [www.healthupdate.blogspot.com](http://www.healthupdate.blogspot.com).**

## Henry Kersh

### Dancer/ Artist/ Healer

Henry passed away on Christmas morning in San Francisco at age 79. He was surrounded by love and friends. Friends and colleagues came from Arizona, New York, and all over to say goodbye. He is survived by a brother, and family in Oregon, and a sister, and family in Utah.

Henry was a man of enormous talents. He danced ballet in Southern California, Europe, and joined the San Francisco Ballet in 1963. He was famous for his roles as The Father in "Beauty and the Beast", and Dr. Drosselmeyer in "The Nutcracker". Archived videos exist of his many performances. Henry also choreographed "Sleeping Beauty" for Ballet 64.

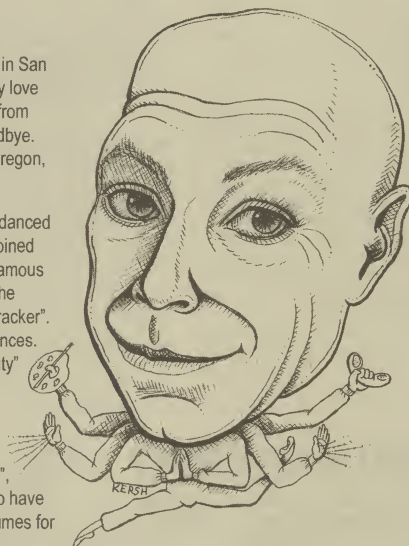
For his 70th birthday, he treated his friends and the public to a staged dance of the "Dying Swan" from "Carnival of the Animals", and may have been the only male dancer to have done so. He also designed and made costumes for the SF Ballet and other companies.

Following his ballet career, Henry worked as a dresser for the San Francisco Opera for many years. His last job was dressing "Phantom of the Opera". Henry was also a prolific painter, often modeling his friends as characters in lavish, gold-leafed, be-jeweled originals and copies of religious icons. In the past, often one monk did the gold, another the lettering, another the faces — Henry did it all. He also restored antique furniture, and was a master of calligraphy.

Henry studied his healing art with the master Dr. D.J. Bussell, and may have begun as early as the 1950's. He believed that the energies of an artist and healer are the same. He spent a lifetime learning how to contact that creative energy easily, and directing or channeling it to his desired conclusion. Many of us can attest to the effectiveness of Henry's healing meditations.

Henry was a generous man, known as the "Candy Man" at the theatres, and in the Castro, reminding everyone to take their butch pills. He came to his clients at their times of need through all kinds of weather and conditions, at all times of day. He passed away at Coming Home Hospice, where he received the fruits of his generosity from a caring and compassionate staff. In his last days, a sweetness and a calm emerged that I shall never forget.

Michael



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# The wave

by Jim Provenzano

It's been over two weeks, but it's still difficult to comprehend the enormity of the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia. Even with friends having returned, and people in the Bay Area sharing some connection to survivors and victims, many I've talked with have already tried to ignore it all.

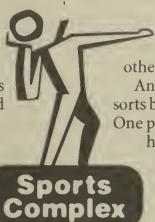
More than 140,000 people in Southeast Asia have died, yet some corporate media seem more concerned with the famous few, to the point of idiocy.

Still, if knowing that Sandra Bullock gave \$1 million inspires others to do more, or if it takes an Oprah special all about Nate Berkus to remind her viewers to donate, so be it. I just found the media's innuendo, then gradual outing of Berkus's partner a tad irksome amid more pressing issues.

Why not acknowledge the LGBT perspective, though? Thailand's destruction made an impact on gay tourists and residents. The December 26 tsunami killed 36 members of the Sri



Sumatran aid volunteers fill buckets with supplies.



**Sports Complex**

Lankan gay organization Companions on a Journey. Another 12 remain missing. And those were gay resorts being destroyed as well. One particularly frightening home video, posted online, showed the complete flooding of an open-air beachside gay resort in Phuket, Thailand, with two men in swim trunks huddling together before getting washed

away. Why did CNN show the same footage, with the men edited out?

Why dwell on such aspects? Because even now, the entire region is being politicized, divided up as potential military lily pads and future corporate investment opportunities by such dubious conglomerates as Halliburton. The Red Cross still denies gay people the ability to donate blood. LGBT people with missing partners are no doubt suffering additional problems of getting help.

Fortunately, most folks in Asia and here in San Francisco simply want to help. A few local groups are joining the relief effort, and the global sports community's helping out, too. BART stations are taking donations, which will go toward sending millions of gallons of fresh water to survivors.

Team San Francisco is joining the efforts with a fundraiser that will raise money for the Rainbow World Fund ([www.rainbow-world.org/](http://www.rainbow-world.org/)). RWF directs donations to its partner agency CARE, which already has active programs in many of the countries affected. The event will be held at Terra, 511 Harrison Street at First Street, from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., on Saturday, February 5.

If you're interested in helping with the event, please contact Team San Francisco at [info@teamsf.org](mailto:info@teamsf.org).

"Everyone participating is do-

# Upcoming events

by Jim Provenzano

## Fog rugby training season starts

Those rough and tumble gentlemen of the San Francisco Fog rugby team are under way with their winter/spring season of training, practices, and games. Look for the feature here next week. Until then, visit [www.sffog.org](http://www.sffog.org) for locations, dates, and info.

## Women's self-defense

Take a women's self-defense and "street smarts" seminar at Studio Naga Indonesian Martial Arts, 5850 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland. Two sessions are planned for Sunday, January 21 and Sunday, February 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The classes will be taught by the staff of Studio Naga, under the direction of Louise Rafkin, who has 20 years of self-defense experience. Rafkin is the author of *Street Smarts: A Woman's Guide to Personal Safety*.

The class will focus on the three A's: awareness, assessment, and action. Non-verbal and verbal strategies will be emphasized — studies show that 85 percent of all self-defense situations can be averted without physical confrontation. All ages and abilities can be empowered by this course, from 13 years and up.

Classes cost \$75 pre-paid (which includes a free T-shirt), \$95 on day of class; or \$130 for two people. Register via phone or download the registration form from [www.studionaga.com](http://www.studionaga.com). For more information, call (510) 652-NAGA (6242) or e-mail: [studionaga@yahoo.com](mailto:studionaga@yahoo.com).

## Gay Games to have sign language

Chicago-based Deaf Communication by Innovation, a gay-owned and deaf-owned company, will coordinate international sign language interpreters for the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. In a sponsorship agreement valued at almost \$90,000, DCI will oversee day-time and evening sign language interpretation for deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes, artists, and fans attending the Gay Games VII Sports and Cultural Festival.

DCI representatives will also attend the Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, an international deaf LGBT conference and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, a national conference for sign language interpreters, on behalf of Gay Games Chicago. DCI will sponsor various social events for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community during the Gay Games. For more information about DCI, visit [www.deafcomm.net](http://www.deafcomm.net).

Gay Games VII Sports and Cultural Festival will take place July 15-22 2006. Over 12,000 athletes from more than 100 countries will compete in 30 sports. The opening ceremony is scheduled for July 15 at Soldier Field, the lakefront home stadium of American-style football's Chicago Bears. The closing ceremony will be July 22 at Wrigley Field, the home of Major League Baseball's Chicago Cubs, located in the heart of Chicago's largest LGBT neighborhood. Registration for Gay Games VII is now open at [www.GayGamesChicago.org](http://www.GayGamesChicago.org).

For information about how to sponsor or participate in Gay Games visit [www.GayGamesChicago.org](http://www.GayGamesChicago.org), e-mail [info@GayGamesChicago.org](mailto:info@GayGamesChicago.org), or call (773) 907-2006. ▼

nating their time and abilities," said Team SF's Ross Hayduk in his announcement. "From entertainment to security, the goal is to have all goods and services donated so the most money possible can go to disaster relief."

Surfers and environmentalists in Bali, who have an already-existing aid group called Indonesia Development of Education and Permaculture (IDEP, created after the 2002 Bali bombings), have organized bucket brigades — plastic tubs filled with basic supplies, for

villagers in Sumatra.

IDEP's Susi Johnston, director of communications and acting emergency director of operations for Aceh Aid in Indonesia, is working with the grassroots group in Bali to continue bringing aid for immediate needs, but also long-term environmental, waste management, and cultural preservation efforts. Surf organizations such as SurfAID, as well as the efforts of others like RipCurl, Billabong, the Surfrider Foundation, and more are also helping IDEP.

You can donate via PayPal by visiting [acehaid@tides.org](mailto:acehaid@tides.org).

IDEP also takes major credit cards via its Web site: [www.idepfoundation.org/aceh\\_aid.html](http://www.idepfoundation.org/aceh_aid.html). Donations will go directly to on-the-ground efforts.

Johnston is also seeking surfers and other experienced adventure travelers who are familiar with travel in Indonesia or other parts of the third world.

For more information, visit [www.idepfoundation.org](http://www.idepfoundation.org).

Johnston is the cousin of Anne Moellering, whose NorCal Women's Surf Club was featured in this space a few weeks ago. NCWSF is planning another benefit effort called Pure Aid, to take place in late February. For more information, and how to help the NorCal Women's Surf Club, visit [www.ncwsc.com](http://www.ncwsc.com). ▼

For more columns, visit [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

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# A twist in Maine marriage fight

by Lisa Keen

The quiet state of Maine has always been an unlikely site for major gay civil rights battles. It has none of the large metropolitan areas that attract large concentrations of gay voters that can pull together to seek legislation or rally against discriminatory measures. Yet once again, Maine is poised for a fracas that mirrors the complexities of the gay civil rights movement all over the United States—with one twist.

Gay activists in the state of Maine are speaking out against a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in that state. Are they responding to the gay movement's national debate over the pace of seeking equal rights in marriage? No.

They're speaking against the pro-gay marriage bill because it's being sponsored by one of the state's most notorious opponents of equal rights for gays.

State Representative Brian Duprey, a Republican from a small town south of Bangor, is a staunch conservative who opposes same-sex marriage. In fact, he also introduced a bill this month to insert a ban on same-sex marriage into the state constitution.

So why has he sponsored a pro-gay marriage bill?

He says it's because he was asked to do so by a constituent who supports same-sex marriage. But gay activists aren't buying that story. They think Duprey's pro-marriage bill is simply a ploy to

divert gay activists' resources away from fighting his constitutional amendment and an effort to capitalize on a legislature that is clearly not ready to support same-sex marriages.

Betsy Smith, head of the statewide gay rights group Equality Maine, said her group wants to concentrate its efforts on repealing the state's existing Defense of Marriage Act and defeating the constitutional amendment. It doesn't want to get suckered into Duprey's game, lobbying for a measure they know won't pass.

"Of course, we support same-sex marriage, and we'll turn out hundreds and hundreds of people to support same-sex marriage when the bill gets a hearing," said Smith. But Duprey, she said, "knows legislators aren't going to vote for this bill."

There's an internal reasoning, too, though, that echoes the recent rift over whether and how the gay movement seeks equal rights in marriage. Representative Lawrence Bliss, an openly gay Democrat transplanted from San Francisco who now represents a part of Maine's largest city, Portland, lays out his position bluntly.

"Marriage is a hot button issue—it's a trigger issue," said Bliss. "My best guess is that gay men and lesbians in Maine would love to have the same rights for their partners... as people who are married have. But is it important to call it 'getting married'? I suspect not. And if the concept of a civil union without invoking the

word 'marriage' and all the hot button things that invokes—if that can happen, everyone would be thrilled to death."

But what about the implications of accepting that "separate but equal" status?

"It is separate but equal—absolutely," said Bliss. "But I think what we've learned is that a great deal of education has to happen before any major change takes place. Like any other campaign—political, military, or otherwise—you have to decide what the objective is and then go after your objective. To me, the primary objective is those rights of inheritance, and all of the things. If you get those rights, without calling it marriage, then you can go back and take the next step—'Everything else is equal, why not change the name?'"

"But if we start by demanding to have the word marriage—which is really a hot button for all those wackos on the right—then the things that come with marriage will never come. Is it half a loaf? Yes, but it's more than we have right now."

There's another more pressing matter at the moment, too, said Smith. The state's Democratic governor, John Baldacci, is committed to introducing to this session of the Legislature a bill to add sexual orientation into the state Human Rights Act. Activists have been trying to pass a statewide antidiscrimination clause there since the 1980s. The measure has passed three times before, but each time,

it has been vetoed or overturned by voters.

"First and foremost, we want to defeat the constitutional amendment and pass the human rights bill," said Smith.

There's a good chance of passing the human rights protection in Maine but little chance it can be passed without another voter referendum—either one built into the bill or one brought by antigay forces in the state on passage.

And here, things appear to be getting even more complicated. According to an Augusta daily newspaper this week, the governor, through a spokesperson, has indicated he "would be very supportive" of a same-sex marriage bill once the human rights law has been amended to include prohibition of sexual orientation discrimination. Meanwhile, he, too, is opposed to the same-sex marriage bill introduced by Duprey.

Smith said, "This is the first time I've heard anyone from his office say anything about him supporting such legislation in the future." She's a little skeptical about the report's accuracy.

"The governor," she said, "has been really careful not to take a position on same-sex marriage publicly. But he's not taken a position behind closed doors either," she added, "except to make clear that he wants the human rights bill" to add sexual orientation protection. Smith said she thinks the governor is "very nervous same-sex marriage is going to mess that up somehow." ▼

## Governor

◀ page 1

and AIDS to access this program is a matter of life and death, and the governor clearly recognized this fact. AIDS advocates are especially thankful to him for fully funding ADAP at a time when the state continues to face significant fiscal challenges."

Anne Donnelly, Project Inform's director of public policy, said the proposed level of funding will not only allow full access to ADAP but save the state money in the long term.

"The governor's proposal is especially noteworthy since it demonstrates California's renewed commitment to keeping HIV-positive people healthy and productive even as the state faces unrelenting fiscal challenges," she said. "It shows he understands that this is not only the right thing to do, but that it also makes economic sense since money invested now in medications to keep people living with HIV/AIDS healthy will ultimately save the state more money down the line in acute health care costs."

A recent study by the University of California-wide AIDS Research Program found that not only is ADAP a lifesaving program, but it is also efficient and well managed. It is estimated that the program will serve over 30,446 people in fiscal year 2005-2006.

"California's investment in this vital program is one of those rare short-term efficiencies that also pays off in the long run," said AIDS Project Los Angeles Executive Director Craig E. Thompson. "The state Office of AIDS has negotiated some of the nation's lowest prices on key HIV/AIDS medications. In an era of widespread alarm over rapidly rising pharmaceutical prices, California's ADAP program is a model for innovative

ways to reduce or cap rapidly rising pharmaceutical costs.

"There is also a critical prevention component to ADAP that should not be overlooked," Thompson added. "We know that people with HIV who are in treatment are more likely to practice safer behaviors and reduce the spread of the AIDS virus."

AIDS groups also lauded the governor's decision not to propose cuts to other HIV/AIDS programs in the state budget. All other AIDS programs, including prevention, testing and counseling, and HIV care programs, have been slated for flat-funding in Schwarzenegger's proposed budget.

There is concern, though, over the governor's proposed \$12.3 million in general fund savings from redesigning Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program. Medicaid serves more than 50 percent of all adults living with AIDS and 90 percent of children. Proposals to generate savings in Medi-Cal include expanding managed care

(including moving more disabled individuals into mandatory managed care), creating an annual limit of \$1,000 per person on dental care provided under Medi-Cal, and instituting monthly premiums for some Medi-Cal beneficiaries of \$10 per adult and \$4 per child under 21, with a \$27 cap for one family.

These cost savings proposals and some others in the Medi-Cal redesign package raise questions about possible negative impact on beneficiaries, said AIDS advocates. But they also said the proposals are not nearly as far reaching as they had expected.

"There was some expectation enrollment would be limited or benefits for Medi-Cal clients would be reduced. This is a much more modest proposal than we were expecting," said Van Gorder.

However, there is concern about the governor's plan to move the aged, blind, and disabled into mandatory managed care programs.

"It's really about how well the community at large is being represented on a micro level. We are a mirror of the community," she said.

Witherington stressed that one can serve as either a voting or nonvoting member, as a volunteer, or simply write a check.

Corporate sponsors who rent booths at a higher commercial rate help support efforts by smaller, developing community nonprofits, by allowing the committee to charge them less in fees. For example, the budget of a small intersex education group allows a table fee of \$60.

"We'd like to have funds to respond to under-represented groups, some less along the path than others," Witherington said. "For some groups 50 bucks is a lot

"A lot of people with AIDS currently are not in managed care and are in fee-for-service plans. We need to come to some conclusions about whether that change will necessarily be bad for people with AIDS in Medi-Cal," Van Gorder said. "We are also concerned about the proposed \$10-a-month premium. People on Medi-Cal are severely economically disadvantaged to begin with, so additional payments are problematic for some people."

The governor also proposed saving \$191 million in general fund money by maximizing federal dollars for prenatal services provided through Medi-Cal. Project Inform's Donnelly said this proposal raises additional questions about federal limitations on such funding.

"We look forward to working with the administration and the Legislature through the budget process to address the concerns related to the governor's Medi-Cal proposal," she said. ▼

of money. With MasterCard, \$8,000 for a booth is quite appropriate. The point is to make our community feel proud."

This year's Pride theme is "Stand Up, Stand Out, Stand Proud." The Pride Parade and festival take place June 25-26.

Chung said that despite some divisive struggles between transgender and LGB community members around the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, this year's theme is "trying to acknowledge unsung heroes whose work has gone unnoticed," in for example, the struggle for same-sex marriage recognition.

The parade "speaks to how we take action and take control of who we are and not allow shame and stigma to continue to define us," she said. ▼

## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281545-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kim Phong, 730 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed by Nu To Nao Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/20/04.

DEC. 23, 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281018-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nor King Spas, 250 Napoleon Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed David Pallenberg. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/19/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/19/04.

DEC. 23, 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281452-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Odd Pod, #167th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Darick Agudelo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/15/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/15/04.

DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281611-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fog Towne Cafe, 1155 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kwok Pang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on not applicable. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/23/04.

DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

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DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

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DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281453-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ABC Builders Co., 667 5th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jing Hua Vie Agudelo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/07/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/15/04.

DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0281448-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Thomas Livingston Antiques, 550 Jackson Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Thomas Livingston. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06/15/77. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/15/04.

DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

In the matter of the application of Don Garth Olson for change of name. The application of Don Garth Olson for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Don Garth Olson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Don Carlo Parenti. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #279441

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as One Good Deed located at 1032 Irving Street #902 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business was conducted by an individual signed Kathy Elliott. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/21/04.

DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005



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## LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



### VACANCY NOTICES

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board of Supervisors web site at [www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsuprvr/Vacancy\\_Notices/vacancy\\_app.pdf](http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsuprvr/Vacancy_Notices/vacancy_app.pdf) or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: [www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvr](http://www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvr)

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

### Western SoMa Citizens' Planning Task Force

Vacant seat, seat 1, must be a resident of western SoMa for more than three years, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 2, must be a resident of western SoMa for less than three years, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 3, must reside in a Single Room Occupancy hotel in western SoMa, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 4, must be a youth residing in western SoMa, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 5, must be raising a family in western SoMa, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/04.

Vacant seat, seat 6, must be a senior residing in western SoMa, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 7, must operate a local business in western SoMa, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 8, must work with a community-based organization in western SoMa, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 9, must represent the arts, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 10, must represent the entertainment industry, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 11, must be a non-profit developer, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, new appointment, seat 12, must be a for-profit developer, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 13, must be a bicycle advocate, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 14, must be a parks and open space advocate, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 15, must be a transportation advocate, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 16, must be a preservation advocate, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 17, must represent labor, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 18, must be appointed by District 6 Supervisor, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 19, must be appointed by District 6 Supervisor, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

Vacant seat, seat 20, must be appointed by District 6 Supervisor, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending 11/23/07.

## PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

San Francisco Community College District is accepting proposals for a food and coffee bar/cafe on the first floor of the Downtown Campus, located at 800 Mission St., San Francisco. An open house to view the space will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2005 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Bids are due no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2005.

To sign up for the open house and to receive a proposal packet, please contact the Chief Administrative Services Office, Stephen J. Herman at (415) 241-2327 or his secretary Ms. Yolanda Panem at (415) 487-2417.

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE # CMC 04541638

In the matter of the application of  
Leslie Anne Carter for change of  
name. The application of Leslie Anne  
Carter for change of name having  
been filed in Court, and it appearing  
from said application that Leslie  
Anne Carter has filed an application  
proposing that his/her name be  
changed to Gabrielle Anne Carter.  
Now therefore, it is hereby ordered,  
that all persons interested in said  
matter do appear before this Court in  
Department 218 on the 15th day of  
February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said  
day to show cause why the application  
for change of name should not be  
granted.  
DEC. 30, 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0281648-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
Real Equity Solutions, 332 Pine Street #307  
San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is  
conducted by a corporation, signed Theodore  
J. Ammiro. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/6/05.  
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

## STATEMENT FILE A-0281919-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
1.) Tony's Windows & Glass 2.) Tony's  
Glass 3.) Tony's Windows, 25 Virgil Street  
San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is  
conducted by an individual, signed Jesse  
Villarreal. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/6/05.  
The statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/7/05.  
JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005



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## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATEMENT FILE A-0281752-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Triad Partners, 65 Ora Way C-107, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Joseph Dung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/30/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/30/04.  
JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0281415-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Propaganda Industries, 2070 Pacific #201, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James Hanusa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/14/04.  
JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0281899-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Pier 38 Yachts, Pier 38 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wayne Moskow. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/6/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/6/05.  
JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0281782-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: I.G.S., 849 22nd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Isidro Gutierrez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/11/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/3/05.  
JAN. 13, 20, 27 FEB. 3, 2005

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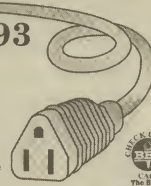
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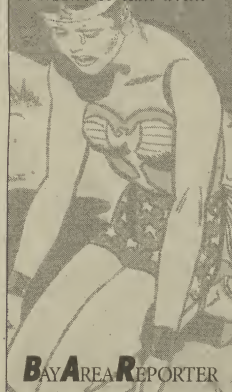
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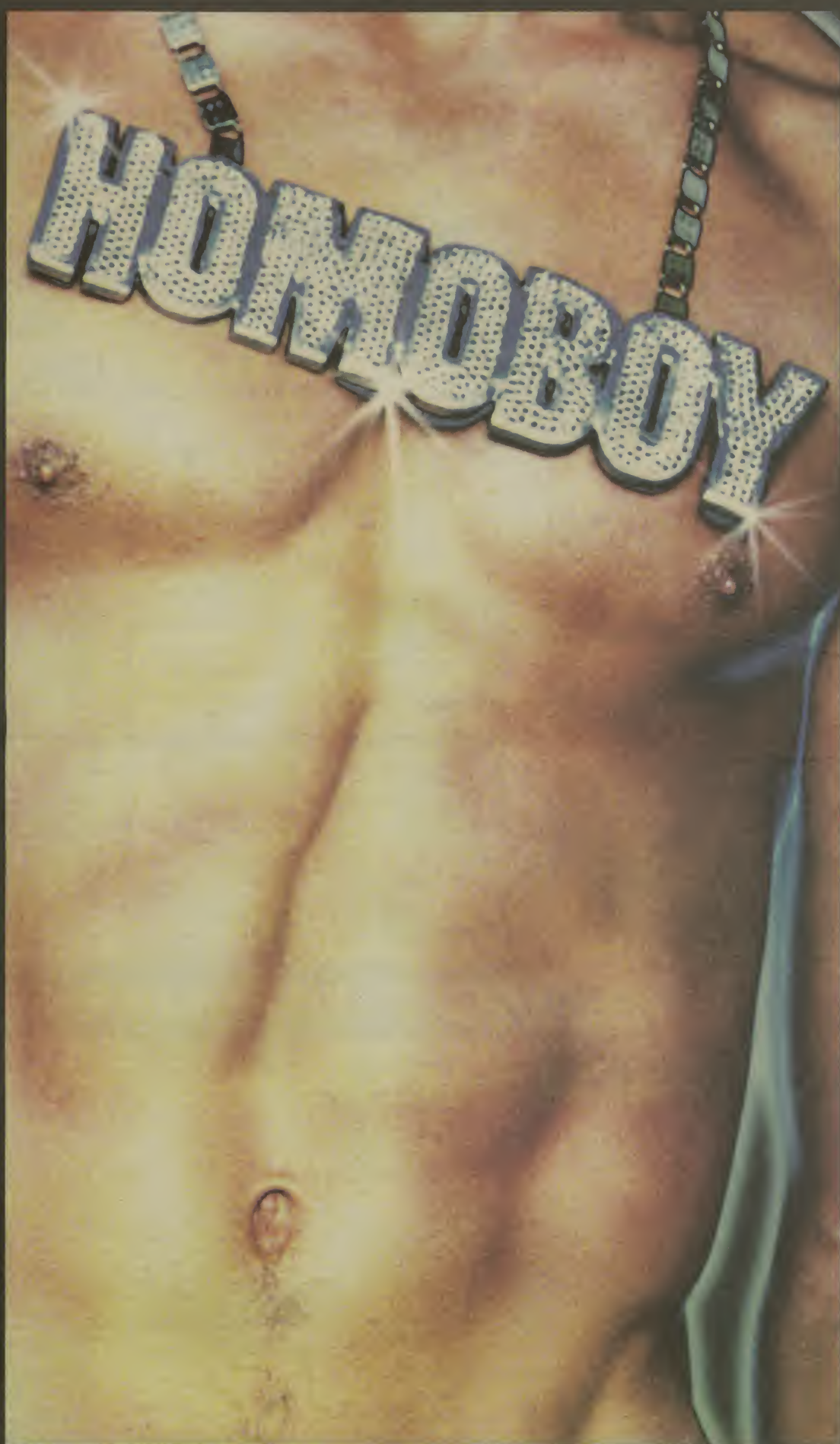
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**Desperately seeking Susan**  
Star intellectual Sontag is remembered,  
while not forgetting her love of women.  
page 27

**Carnivore affair**  
Danish black comedy in  
'The Green Butchers.'  
page 37



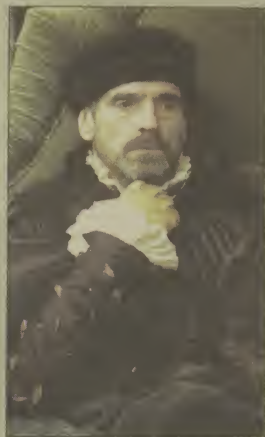
**Winters wonderland**  
Shelley Winters gets the  
career-survey treatment.  
page 29



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 2 • 13 January 2005



Jeremy Irons plays the Merchant.

## A pound of gay flesh

**'The Merchant of Venice' comes to the screen**

by David Lamble

In the opening moments of *The Merchant of Venice*, Antonio, a rich, Christian ship-owner, spits in the face of Shylock, a Jewish moneylender. The scene, filmed amidst the chaos of an ancient city that still seems to live in the 16th-century, comes during the opening credits, while some filmgoers are still stumbling to find their seats and not dump a gallon of soda or a pound of popcorn into the laps of fellow audience members.

Filmmakers are often cautioned not to ambush audiences with crucial dramatic information before they are prepared to receive it. British director Michael Radford boldly violates this rule, and makes other startling changes to a story that is one of the Bard's best, most controversial, least understood and perhaps most relevant to contemporary political concerns, sexual and otherwise.

Radford's *Merchant* has upset traditionalists (who would prefer a three-hour, sleep-inducing version) with its slimmed-down text, heightened subtext and unusual casting choices: a charismatic, method-acting American film star (Al Pacino as Shylock) playing opposite a classically trained, equally film-savvy performer (Jeremy Irons as Antonio, the Merchant of the title), and a matinee idol (Joseph Fiennes as the fickle, opportunistic Bassanio) playing opposite a

page 28 ►

## Driving Miss Tony

**Kushner on 'Caroline, or Change' in SF**

by Richard Dodds

Tony Kushner claims not to read his reviews, but he seems to know an awful lot about how *Caroline, or Change* fared with the critics during its recent New York run.

Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*' chief drama critic, "didn't care for it very much," Kushner said of his first effort at a stage musical. "But it got rave reviews from *The New Yorker*, *Time Out*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, *Time* magazine, and Frank Rich in *The New York Times*. Not just saying it was good, but saying it was one of the most important, and perhaps the most important musicals in decades."

The playwright, during an interview in advance of *Caroline*'s Jan. 18 opening at the Curran Theatre, countered the accolades he cited with no false modesty. "I'm prouder of this show than anything I've ever done," he said, which is saying a lot when your resumé includes *Angels in America*.

*Caroline* is the most overtly autobiographical

page 40 ►

Benjamin Platt, top, and Tonya Pinkins in *Caroline, or Change*



Craig Schwartz

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# Cocksmen of the world unite

Rodman, Berlin, Phelps & Trocks: not a law firm

by Roberto Friedman

Can Out There just take a moment and ask, When *isn't* it the year of the cock? This week, in celebration of the theme of the upcoming Chinese New Year, we spend some quality time catching up with the lives of some eminent cocksmen. To wit:

## When Dennis met Dan

Stop the presses! Sports superstar **Dennis Rodman** has just become the first man to pose nude for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)'s iconic *Rather Go Naked than Wear Fur* campaign.

The way it transpired, according to the faboo press release, is classic meet-cute as these things go. Rodman met openly gay PETA VP **Dan Mathews** in a Miami nightclub when Dennis invited Dan and his friend, Miami drag scenester **Elaine Lancaster**, to take refuge in his booth because he saw Elaine drawing homophobic taunts from clubgoers. (No information has been given us on just what these taunts consisted of, but anyway.)

When Elaine told Dennis who Dan was, Dennis said that not only has he always refused free furs (go girl!), but he was embarrassed whenever his ex-wife wore them. Now, PETA assures us that they have been push-



PETA's Dan Mathews and sports star Dennis Rodman pull up a hug.

ing **Carmen Electra** to forego fur for years, but doesn't this count as gratuitous slagging of one's ex?

When Mathews told Rodman about PETA's program that donates thousands of castoff fur coats to the homeless through the (888) FUR-AWAY hotline, Roddy instantly agreed to pose for the cause.

Wait a minute, why is it OK for the homeless to wear furs but not the homed? Oh, maybe PETA intends for the homeless to use the furs to line and insulate their charming, impromptu dwellings

and lean-tos. Never mind.

BTW, PETA assures us that, re the accompanying photo of Rodman looking dashing in a PETA T-shirt (with Dan): he's wearing a lot less in the ad, which breaks wide this month.

## Berlin and beyond

Last week it was made official: *That Man: Peter Berlin - A Documentary*, recently completed by director and erstwhile *B.A.R.* contributor **Jim Tushinski**, will have its world premiere at the 2005 Berlin Film Festival in February, the fest exactly perfect in name and stature. Talk about a film that's right up our alley!

Meet the focker: If ever a man could rightly be called a living legend, that man would be photographer, filmmaker, model, and gay male sex icon **Peter Berlin**, who shot to international fame in the mid-'70s with two 16mm films, *Nights in Black Leather* and *That Boy*. His signature skintight fashion would go on to influence over three decades of glam *couture*.

Berlin has been called the "Greta Garbo of porn" because he displayed everything for the camera, yet remained aloof, enigmatic figure to his fans, rarely making public appearances. (But



That boy who became that man: Peter Berlin plays Berlin Film Festival.

does he "vant to be alone?") He was the model for several **Tom of Finland** drawings and juicy **Robert Mapplethorpe** photographs.

The documentary, co-produced by **Lawrence Helman** (*Sex Is...!*), features interviews with **Armistead Maupin**, **John Waters**, adult-film star **Jack Wrangler**, filmmaker **Wakefield Poole**, and photographer **Rick Castro**, and others who knew Peter or appreciated him.

Tushinski spent 18 months interviewing Berlin on camera, gaining the trust of the notoriously private icon. "Peter is a remarkable photographer," Tushinski explains on the film's website, "and a large number of his photographs never saw publication. He would drag out boxes full of prints and transparencies that he hadn't looked at for 20 years."

The real find were reels of unseen 16mm film taken in Europe and SF from the late '60s and early '70s. "Peter and his friend, painter **Jochen LaBriola**, would film Peter being provocative on the street," Tushinski said. "These reels are precursors to Peter's theatrical films."

After Berlin, the doc will screen at the Mardi Gras Film Fest in Sydney, the Melbourne Queer Film Fest, and the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Fest. For more info, go to [www.thatmanpeterberlin.com](http://www.thatmanpeterberlin.com).

Moreover, in March, Gorilla Factory Productions will release the '74 gay male erotica classic *That Boy* for the first time on DVD. The digitally remastered feature is complemented by two lost short films by Berlin, and a very funny audio commentary by Berlin and (natch) *B.A.R.* porn critic **John F. Karr**. This DVD will become available online at [www.peter-berlin.com](http://www.peter-berlin.com).

## Alumni notes

Okay, so like, we haven't been

in actual personal touch with impossibly young *NY Times Magazine* writer/hottie **Benoit Denizet-Lewis** since, like, last century, when he was news and features editor at *XY* magazine and even *younger*. But dude, we've followed and admired his brilliant career, as he brought elderly *Times* readers up to snuff on black men-who-have-sex-with-men living life on the super down-low; and how the under-35 set have such fockin' great sex lives (finally bringing the terms "hooking up" and "friend with benefits" to the breakfast table in Greenwich, Connecticut).

This past Sunday, Denizet-Lewis published yet another *Times* mag cover-story (well, he is, like, pushing 30!), this time on modern fraternity life, yo. Turns out like BD-L is a gay ex-frat-boy himself! Check out what he told the indispensable *Gawker*:

"Let's just say I wasn't the only gay member of my chapter at Northwestern. Pretty much every gay former frat-boy I've ever met (and I've met plenty) has a story or two about having drunken sex with a fraternity brother. I could write a whole book about the homoeroticism of fraternities." We betcha could, Benoit, we betcha could. Dude, we'd say there's a book contract in it.

## Winters affair

In this issue, arts writer **Tavo Amador** expertly covers the 55-year film career of tremendous (in every sense of the word) character actress **Shelley Winters** in a trim (a word not used with her for decades) 925 words. That's called watching one's column inches!

It's not generally known that Winters and handsome old-school film actor **William Holden** had a *Same Time, Next Year*-type affair over many Christmas Eves. Apparently, after it petered

page 41 ►

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# Sontag remembered

by David Lambie

It may seem a stretch to begin a remembrance of one of America's favorite intellectuals, Susan Sontag (1933-2004), by quoting a Hollywood movie, a movie about baseball no less, minor-league baseball at that, but we are, as a culture, more likely to recall our favorite movies. In an odd way they seem less disposable. In his 1988 film *Bull Durham* — possibly the best film ever made about love and baseball — writer/director Ron Shelton put some words in the mouth of Crash Davis (Kevin Costner) that remain as witty as when first uttered, but which now have a sadly ironic ring. Pressed to explain himself by the woman he's chasing, an articulate, Walt Whitman-quoting, baseball groupie named Annie (Susan Sarandon), Crash gives his credo. "I believe in the soul, the cock, the pussy, the small of a woman's back, the hanging curveball, high fiber, good scotch, that the novels of Susan Sontag are self-indulgent overrated crap..." Whoa!

It is impossible to say how many fans of *Bull Durham* had any idea who Susan Sontag was, nor is it possible to say how Susan Sontag learned of her brush with celluloid immortality. But one thing can be said: almost immediately, the novels of Susan Sontag got a whole lot better. It also can be said that in the last years of her life, her novels became very precious to her. It's not that Susan Sontag disavowed her great essays — on subjects as diverse as the sensibility that is Camp, photography (fueled partly by her long-term relationship with photographer Annie Liebovitz), illness, AIDS, the white race, Communism as Fascism, the terrible war in the former Yugoslavia, the dastardly attack on her beloved New York City (a subject about which, nonetheless, she had some very spirited and extremely controversial thoughts) — no, that would be like Madame Tussaud denouncing the art of modeling in wax, or Ben & Jerry swearing off frozen desserts with high amounts of butterfat. What Sontag did say was that she liked the freedom the novel gave her to express contradictory thoughts or feelings. A recent obituary agreed with Shelton that her early fiction is today nearly unreadable. But Sontag fervently believed in the very American art of personal reinvention.

## Name game

Susan Sontag was born Susan Rosenblatt, the daughter of Jack and Mildred Rosenblatt. Her father, a fur-trader in China, died of tuberculosis when she was five, perhaps kindling her life-long interest in disease and how people are marked by the diseases they acquire. Her mother married a handsome war veteran, Capt. Nathan Sontag, and urged Susan and her sister to take his name.

Raised in the Arizona desert and Southern California, Sontag often mentioned how much she liked the unpretentious hospitality of the Western states. It was a quality you noticed right away. Sontag lacked the reserve that barnacles many intellectuals. She let you know that she didn't live exclusively in her head.

In 1964, Sontag composed 58 "Notes on Camp," and among other things, labeled the development of this modern sensibility as an outgrowth of an increasingly visible gay vanguard. Two decades later, Sontag had become a kind of



A life defending homosexual taste.

unofficial "den mother" to a diverse group of gay writers, including Edmund White, who cited her along with French philosopher Michel Foucault as primary intellectual influences. Sontag herself had become more concerned with issues that affect gay men, from AIDS to the dilemmas of young people forced out on the street because of their sexual orientation. Sontag confessed to having had several friends and even some lovers die from AIDS.

In *Bull Durham*, Annie gets a scouting report on a hot prospect, from a girlfriend who has had sex with the young pitcher "Nuke" LaLoosh (Tim Robbins). He's a rookie with whom Annie will share her philosophy and bed for a season. "He fucks like he pitches, sort of all over the place."

Oddly enough, this pithy if vulgar judgment could be said to sum up the suspicions about Sontag harbored by many New York male intellectuals. She was just too nimble a thinker, altogether too popular a personality, very much too threatening a woman who could not only out-think and out-talk her stuffer male colleagues, but who was also rebellious — who took seriously the intellectual aspirations of the queer community, and had the panache and sex appeal to star in movies by those two great New York vulgarians, Andy Warhol and Woody Allen.

A tribe that used words as weapons, her often bitter male critics called her all sorts of names. Almost 40 contradictory adjectives are cited in her *New York Times* obituary, including "explosive, anticlimactic, original, derivative, naive, sophisticated, approachable, aloof, condescending, populist, puritanical, sybaritic, sincere, posturing, ascetic, voluptuary, right-wing, left-wing, relevant, passé, humorous, humorless. No one ever called her dull."

## Pop revolution

One of the ways in which Sontag was threatening to the male establishment was that she changed the terms of the intellectual conversation in America, as profoundly as black musicians changed America's soundtrack through the invention of rock 'n' roll. Columbia University philosophy professor Arthur C. Danto told *The New York Times*, "I think she prepared the ground for the pop revolution, which was in many ways essentially a gay revolution, through Warhol and others. She didn't make that art, but she brought it to consciousness. She gave people a vocabulary for talking about it and thinking about it."

The day after his first night in bed with Annie, Nuke LaLoosh explains to a coach that he and Annie didn't have sex. Instead, she kept him up all night with the poetry of Whitman. "That was much

more exhausting than fucking."

In her seminal essay on Camp, Sontag made numerous citations of the epigrams of Oscar Wilde. In note #22, she explained, "Considered a little less strictly, Camp is either completely naive or else wholly conscious (when one plays at being campy). An example of the latter: Wilde's epigrams themselves."

Wilde, from *Lady Windermere's Fan*: "It's absurd to divide people into good or bad. People are either charming or tedious."

The heart of Sontag's defense of Camp was a defense of homosexual taste, in fact of the debt America owed to several strains of minority taste and consciousness.

"The peculiar relation between Camp and homosexuality has to be explained. While it's not true that Camp taste is homosexual taste, there is no doubt a peculiar affinity and overlap. Not all liberals are Jews, but Jews have shown a peculiar affinity for liberal and reformist causes. So, not all homosexuals have Camp taste. But homosexuals, by and large, constitute the vanguard — and the most articulate audience — of Camp. (The two pioneering forces of modern sensibility are Jewish moral seriousness and homosexual aestheticism and irony.)"

My two favorite interviews in terms of intellectual rigor and just plain human warmth are Ron Shelton and Susan Sontag. In a later scene in *Bull Durham*, Annie gets to reply to Crash's assault on Sontag. Swatting balls in a batting cage, Annie says, "I think Susan Sontag is brilliant!" ▼

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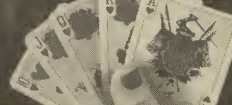
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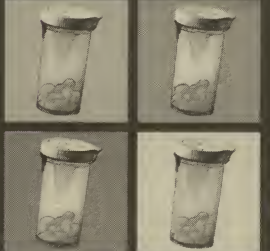
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# Looks, smarts, lesbian history

## Actress/writer Guinevere Turner in conversation in SF

by David Lamble

Actress-director-writer Guinevere Turner once called herself "a girly girl with the innards of a truck-driver." A decade after a sensational debut as the backwards-baseball-cap-wearing dyke Max West in *Go Fish*, who wins the lady in a love scene involving sexy undressing and nail-clippers, Turner continues to make movies — over a dozen edgy titles: *Chasing Amy*, *The Watermelon Woman*, *Kiss Me Guido*, *Latin Boys Go to Hell*, *Preaching to the Perverted* and *The Safety of Objects* — as well as make lesbian media history. With a filmography eclectic enough to make indie-queen Parker Posey envious, Turner has in three years devoted more of her energies to writing. The controversial *American Psycho* was based on the novel by Brad Easton Ellis, in collabora-

tion with director Mary Harron. For the past two seasons, she has juggled acting (as Gabby Devaux) and writing chores on the Showtime Network's breakthrough series *The L Word*.

Google her, and the first place you land (the first of 48,800 hits) is "The Goddess Guinevere Turner Fanpage." Despite the conventional wisdom that goddesses need not converse with real people, most webquotes from this Boston native reveal a warm, witty show business veteran who is just beginning to make her mark.

Chatting with Sarah Warn for AfterEllen.com, Turner noted just how hard it is to be an overnight success.

"Everything takes a really, really long time, especially getting your paycheck. Non-industry people always assume you're really famous (and hence really rich), and industry people ignore you because you're not famous enough. And having been on both sides of the casting process, there are so many factors that you'll never know about that go into not



Self-described girly girl/trucker.

choosing you for the part that you shouldn't take it personally. Although it might well be that you're fat, old, and talentless, it's more likely that you're taller than the guy you'd play opposite, or the producers decided they wanted a blonde at the last minute, or the director's girlfriend finally con-

vinced him to give her the part, or you remind the casting director of her sister that she hates."

### Pin up

Last year, Turner reunited with Mary Harron to write *The Ballad of Betty Page*, about the legendary '50s pin-up girl. Besides co-scripting, Turner plays a supporting role as Page's sister in a production made for HBO.

Guinevere Turner will appear in conversation with filmmaker/critic Jenni Olson, whose first feature, *The Joy of Life*, will debut at this year's Sundance Film Festival. Turner and Olson will likely discuss how far lesbian film has come in the decade between *Go Fish* and *The L Word*.

The conversation will take place Tuesday, January 18 at 8 p.m., as part of Frameline's *Close-Up: Visionaries of Modern Cinema* series, at the Delancey Street Screening Room, 600 Embarcadero, in San Francisco. Take the Muni Metro, N Judah line, to Brannan Street Station. Tickets (\$12); call (415) 703-8650. ▼

## Merchant

◀ Arts cover

beautiful, fresh-faced, Texas-born actress (Lynn Collins as Portia). Collins gives a very subtle reading to one of Shakespeare's most eloquently written examples of a woman masquerading as a man, in the process unmasking chauvinism.

*The Merchant* is a play, like Robert Altman's *Nashville*, with so many possible heroes, anti-heroes and modern heroines (including Jessica, Shylock's daughter, who betrays her father by eloping with a Christian) that it can leave audiences torn by its complex constellation of religious, sexual and gender conflicts.

### Tragic oversight

On the morning of our conversation, director Radford was still digesting the news that *Merchant* had been inexplicably overlooked by the Golden Globes Awards committee. The New Delhi-born British filmmaker is best-known to American filmgoers for his adaptation of George Orwell's 1984 (Richard Burton's last film) and for the Oscar-nominated *Il Postino* (whose Italian star, Massimo Troisi, tragically didn't live to bask in its success). Radford is convinced that Antonio is gay (unlike actor Irons), that Bassanio is being duplicitous with both Antonio and Portia, that Shylock is tragically misunderstood but in an intriguingly modern way, and that the play, in the end, belongs to Portia.

"Shylock represents every single abused racial minority," he said. "We had a guy in London who stood up at a preview and said, 'I'm a Muslim, and I totally identify with Shylock.' If the play is about anything, it's about human dignity, the dignity of women, the dignity of Jews or any other racial minority, the dignity of homosexuals."

"Shylock is a man whose dignity has been affronted. In Shakespeare's play, it's done by report. You hear about the fact that he's been abused for being Jewish on the Rialto bridge, but you don't actually see it. In the movie, you



Al Pacino, right, plays Shylock in Michael Radford's *Merchant of Venice*.

see it, which makes it much easier to be sympathetic with Shylock. Shylock can tolerate all this stuff as long as he can live within his own community. But the moment that his daughter Jessica runs away, with a Christian, he suffers from road rage. All of us understand what it's like to have one dignity affronted and want to kill somebody; we just don't do it. At the end of the trial, he realizes he's been a bad human being for going too far.

"Shakespeare wrote the play in the wake of a profoundly anti-Semitic play called *The Jew of Malta* by Christopher Marlowe, which was making fun of Jews. *The Jew of Malta* was very popular, and because he was a businessman, Shakespeare saw what brought people into the theaters and thought, 'I'll write one, too.' But during the writing, a trial took place in London of a man called Dr. Rodrigo Lopez, the Queen's physician and a Jew. He was framed and tried for treason, leading to an outbreak of anti-Semitism in London. There's a theory that Shakespeare was so appalled by this that he went to the trial and revised the character of Shylock, having him say, 'Look, you can revile me, but don't strip me of my dignity.'"

### Designing women

Radford says the film emphasizes the Bard's talent for crafting roles for women that were 400

years ahead of their time. "We know that until the Restoration, all women's parts were played by men, so Shakespeare's women were played by boys. The moment that actresses started to play these parts, they took on great substance. Portia is probably his greatest creation. In this play, which is so dominated by Shylock, there's this character who is actually the biggest part, who is the absolute essence of the woman of intelligence and wit, who grows throughout the play. In her discovery of herself in this courtroom, she suddenly sees what it is to hold real power. She also sees that the man she's about to marry is shallow and has a dubious relationship with another man. This brings into focus the ring scene. I always see it as about Portia taking her female power and throwing it at these people around her."

One of the overlooked subtexts in the play concerns the twisted, tangled relationship between the crafty Bassanio and his benefactor and would-be lover Antonio. "If you talk to Jeremy [Irons], he doesn't see Antonio as homosexual. In those days, your relationships with women were either as wives or as whores. They weren't considered to be men's equals in any kind of a way. So the friendship between two men was considered to be profound and much more important. In Mediterranean societies, it still is. It does-



## FILM

# Dark cities on both coasts

## 3rd Film Noir Festival at the Balboa Theatre

by Tavo Amador

For this year's Film Noir Festival, running at the Balboa Theatre January 14-27, organizer Eddie Muller is focusing on New York and Los Angeles, two dangerous cities, rather than San Francisco. In the process, he's presenting some rarely seen examples of the genre, and putting others in a new context.

Before winning writing and directing Oscars for his witty *A Letter to Three Wives* ('49) and *All About Eve* ('50), Joseph L. Mankiewicz helmed and co-authored a neglected noir, *Somebody in the Night* ('46). Set in LA, this tale of an ex-marine suffering from amnesia and determined to reconstruct his past stars John Hodiak, Lloyd Nolan, Richard Conte, and Sheldon Leonard, long before he became a successful television producer. Surrendering to temptation usually leads to trouble in Noir Land, even if the rea-

sons are noble. Beautiful Farley Granger steals \$30,000 and must hide along a Manhattan *Side Street* ('49) while fleeing from assorted denizens of this darkest of cities. Anthony Mann's direction is suspenseful. With the terrific Jean Hagen. (1/14)

*Sweet Smell of Success* ('57) casts Burt Lancaster as J.J. Hunsecker, a Walter Winchell-like columnist, and an astonishingly pretty Tony Curtis as sleazy press agent Sidney Falco. The controlling, sister-obsessed, megalomaniacal Hunsecker is truly frightening; Lancaster brings a suppressed, dangerous physicality to the part. It's one of the scariest performances on film. Curtis matches him; anxiety oozes from his pores. Despite the two leads, a splendid score, terrific Manhattan locations, a fine Clifford Odets script, and taut direction by Alexander Mackendrick, it failed commercially. Now it's regarded as a landmark achievement. Norma Shearer, Mary Pickford, and Mae

West refused *Sunset Boulevard* ('50) before George Cukor suggested Gloria Swanson to director and co-author Billy Wilder. As silent-screen star Norma Desmond, hellbent on a comeback, she transcends camp and is unforgettable: arrogant, frightened, delusional, controlling, needy, tragic. Sexy William Holden is sensational as her kept man, whose attempt to escape from her gilded mansion leads to murder. With Erich von Stroheim. (1/15)

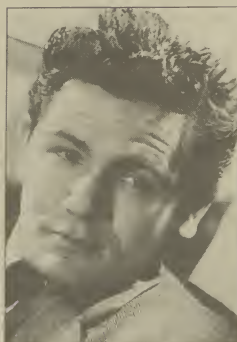
### Million stories

Manhattan is *The Naked City* ('48) in Jules Dassin's influential documentary-style police procedural. As the cops search for the killer of a beautiful woman, they discover sleaziness everywhere, from Park Avenue penthouses to humble walk-ups. Soon-to-be blacklisted Albert Matz wrote the screenplay. William Daniels' Oscar-winning cinematography is masterful. With Howard Duff and Barry Fitzgerald. Fritz Lang direct-

ed the original *M* ('31) with Peter Lorre, an acknowledged masterpiece, so it was daring of Joseph Losey to remake it in '51, moving it from Berlin to LA. Child-molester/killer David Wayne is the object of a cop hunt, and they're assisted by criminals: he's liked by no one. Casting the ordinary Wayne in the role was inspired, and makes the film very disturbing. With Howard da Silva and Luther Adler (Stella's brother). (1/16)

*He Ran All the Way* ('51) was sexy, working-class John Garfield's last film — he died shortly after completing it at age 39. His botched robbery makes him a fugitive from New York's Finest. Sympathetic Shelley Winters falls for his virile charm and invites him home to meet her parents — whom he takes hostage. Garfield suggests a man needing acceptance more than anything else. Will he betray the family he's just found? In *He Walked Alone* ('48), Richard Basehart is an electronics genius and psychotic who begins as a burglar, then moves to murder. The LA cops pursue him, including one played by Jack Webb, before *Dragnet*. (1/17)

Whiskey-voiced Ida Lupino is *On Dangerous Ground* ('51), Nicholas Ray's complex story of a bitter New York cop (Robert Ryan) out to catch a murderer. Lupino is the blind sister of the primary suspect. Bernard Herrmann's score adds immeasurably to the suspense. Few actors suggested sadism as effectively as



Sexy, working-class John Garfield

Ryan, and in *Act of Violence* ('49), he plays a former prisoner of war haunted by demons. Janet Leigh is his lovely, clueless wife. With Van Heflin and the splendid Mary Astor. Directed by Fred Zinnemann. Set in a scary LA. (1/18)

Robert Siodmak was a noir master, and in *Cry of the City* ('48) he gives a new twist to the old story of lower-class kids who grow up and take divergent paths. Beefy Victor Mature (the '40s version of a hunk, but don't expect much) is respectable, boyhood pal Richard Conte is a felon. Their paths cross again, with tragic consequences. Shelley Winters is Conte's old flame. Siodmak directed Burt Lancaster in *Cross Cross* ('48), an expertly written thriller. Lancaster is tough but doomed. Creepy Dan Duryea is his partner in a sensational heist, and rival for treacherous Yvonne De Carlo, many years before she became Lily Munster. (1/19) ▼

www.BalboaMovies.com

# Dame deserves respect

## The movie career of Shelley Winters

by Tavo Amador

Although Joan Crawford reportedly inspired Stephen Sondheim's "I'm Still Here," it suits Shelley Winters perfectly. "First you're another sloe-eyed vamp/Then you're someone's mother/Then you're camp!" sums up her career. But she won two Oscars, earning Hollywood's grudging respect. Some of her best work is included in this year's Film Noir Festival.

Born ('22) Shirley Schrift in St. Louis, she grew up in Brooklyn. Modeling led to a successful revue, *Pins and Needles*, followed by several Broadway plays. Columbia gave her some uncredited film roles, but she got billing and was good in *Knickerbocker Holiday* ('44), yet the studio dropped her.

Back on Broadway, she took over Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*. Garson Kanin recommended her to gay director George Cukor for the too-friendly waitress killed by Ronald Coleman in *A Double Life* ('47), and she scored. For *Universal*, she committed *Larceny* before getting another good part in *Cry*



She's still here: Shelley forever.

of the City. She was the pathetic Myrtle in *The Great Gatsby* ('49), dying, as she did in *Take One False Step*. She was *Johnny Stool Pigeon's* moll and a *South Sea Sinner* ('50), a campy variation on Sadie Thompson. Out West, she played a floozy opposite James Stewart in *Winchester '73*, and was *Frenchie*.

She persuaded George Stevens to make her the doomed factory-worker whom Montgomery Clift abandons for Elizabeth Taylor while seeking *A Place in the Sun*

('51), and she got a Best Actress Oscar nomination. She sheltered killer John Garfield in *He Ran all* page 39 ►

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# Everything old is new again

## Young pianist Yundi Li has the chops for Chopin

by Tim Pfaff

It's increasingly hard to make Chopin sound "new" without resorting to eccentricity. The pianists who do, on the other hand, do it every time. The Scherzi on Yundi Li's new CD, where they're coupled with Impromptus Nos. 1-3 (DG), aren't exactly like the performances he gave of the set in San Francisco last April (in a San Francisco Performances recital that also included the Liszt Sonata, which he has also recorded). But then, they didn't sound the same (by a good margin, actually) on the back-to-back evenings he played them at the Florence Gould, either.

This is not the sign of an unformed artist or unsettled interpreter, though Li is only 23. This CD, a significant step beyond his already impressive debut CD of Chopin for DG, confirms his place in the company of the greatest living Chopin players. Like the pianist-composer himself, they take each opportunity to perform the works as unique, and respond with all the spontaneity they can muster. As a result, some of the most familiar repertoire in music stays vital and even "grows." Thank pianists like Li that Chopin is held in higher regard than ever as a composer.

Recorded in Berlin last June, Li's interpretations of the Scherzi brim with the sense of having been recently on the road. They're practiced readings in every sense of the word, yet they retain the kind of immediacy you get with opera recordings made in conjunction with live performances.

Li's has always been "big" Chopin, but his ability to wring colossal sonorities out of the piano without relying on pressure alone has been honed to new levels of refinement. There's not a hint of harshness to his playing at its most assertive. In his place is a

sense of command based on deep inner knowledge of the works. Call it authority.

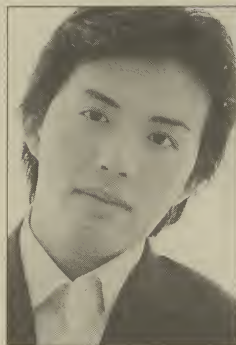
Throughout, Li's sense of rubato not only informs his interpretations but gives the pieces that unmistakable sense of being living entities. That, along with his capacity to connect the thematic threads that hold these impulsive pieces together, make for a set of Scherzi that excite, reveal, and consistently satisfy.

Although the Scherzi are generally more fire-breathing than not, Li's wizardry is at its most fearsome in the C-sharp minor Scherzo, Op. 39, where the torrential cascades of notes emerge with both uncommon power and pinpoint clarity.

More impressive, Li unfurls the soulful, big-hearted theme that breaks through the pyrotechnics without falling back on its tempting sentimentality, instead giving it an arc of its own, which gives the tune new shape and definition at each appearance, and greater meaning overall.

### Cast away

The B-minor Scherzo, Op. 20 alternates between a kind of breathless moto perpetuo and a gently rocking melody of lullaby delicacy. Li's fusion of the dis-



Uncommon power, pinpoint clarity.

parate elements is consummate, yet what amazes is his capacity to give every figure that appears in repetition a distinctively new cast without fracturing its essential character, shape, or color.

He pushes the already urgent B-flat minor Scherzo, Op. 31 — the one with the recurrent, spider-legged figure forever creeping up on you — to daring extremes of speed and volume without any loss of clarity in the line. The feeling Li gives — of taking you on a headlong plunge through the pieces, with a master guide who

knows their every twist and turn — is at the heart of what makes these interpretations so thrilling.

While Li's delicacy and suavity are equally important parts of his playing, his is essentially demonic Chopin — not in the Halloween sense, but rather keenly attuned to the spirit that drives each piece. The most elusive of the Scherzos, the E Major, Op. 54, gains most from that artistic perspective. I admit I never quite understood it until I heard Li play it in SF. His CD rendition is even more settled. The nocturne Chopin tucks into the core of the piece receives a rapturous reading that, like the eye of a storm, keeps the whirling figures around it in meaningful shapes.

The three Impromptus (Op. 29 in A-flat, Op. 36 in F-sharp, and Op. 51 in G-flat) share the same sense of impulsiveness (apropos of their names), even impetuosity. Their greater evanescence gives Li a chance to play with more dappled colors, and the sureness of his touch is every bit as much in evidence. Some serious floating goes on here, a foil to the relentlessness of the Scherzos.

Only the concentration and transfixing beauty of both the playing and the music never let up. ▼

# Around the world

## From Poland to South Africa on CD

by Jason Serinus

*Pictures from the Street* - Motion Trio (Asphalt-Tango Records)

Reconceptions of accordion music as hokey or musically limited vanish upon playing this mind-opening disc. Featuring original compositions by members of Poland's Motion Trio, the music ranges from up-tempo, high-spirited affairs to others that bubble along in a manner reminiscent of Nino Rota's music for Fellini. In keeping with South American accordion tradition, there are several original tangos. But there's also a unique version of the classic folk dance "Aide Jano," works that show the influence of jazz and rock, and a bonus "Stars" video playable on both PC and Mac.

The video is especially wild, with space-music sounds and Glass-like minimalist repetition accompanying equally outré, unabashedly self-promoting images. The trio has won the Grand Prix at the 4th Krzysztof Penderecki International Competition of Contemporary Chamber Music in Kraków; each of its members, ranging in age from 26 to 34, has also won a handful of prizes as a soloist. The years they've spent honing their craft on the streets pay off in a stunning recorded debut.

*Amor* - Natalie Dessay (EMI)

When it comes to amor, high-flying soprano Natalie Dessay's new recital of opera scenes and *lieder* (songs) by Richard Strauss has me head over heels. From Zerbinetta's delightful, impossible-to-sing coloratura showpiece



Ladysmith Black Mambazo comes to Zellerbach Hall on February 3.

from *Ariadne auf Naxos* (complete with a perfect, rarely attempted stratospheric trill) to the two great silver- and pink-hued duets and transcendent trio from Strauss' great romantic opera *Der Rosenkavalier*, Dessay's beautiful tone, apt phrasing, and infectious spirit illumine Strauss' soaring melodies with love and joy. If you've ever wondered why some people wax ecstatic over opera, give this a listen.

For those who know the music of Richard Strauss only from the thunderous chords of his early tone poem *Also Sprach Zarathustra* played at the opening of the movie *2001*, uncover the pleasure of his vocal music. The four *Brentano Lieder*, capped by the bubbly "Amor," are one of the composer's many gifts to the soprano voice. The *Arabella* duet,

originally composed for Lotte Lehmann, combines beauty and nostalgia in Strauss' soaring manner. Soloists Felicity Lott, Natalie Dessay, and Angelika Kirschschrager receive ideal support from Antonio Pappano and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in the *Rosenkavalier* Trio.

*No Boundaries* - Ladysmith Black Mambazo (Heads Up 15)

In over 30 years of performing, South Africa's a cappella male ensemble Ladysmith Black Mambazo has achieved renown for their tight, sonorous harmonies and uplifting performances. Thanks to their 1986 *Graceland* collaboration with Paul Simon, they have also garnered one much-deserved Grammy and

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## BOOKS

# Audre Lorde remembered

by Garland Richard Kyle

*Warrior Poet - A Biography of Audre Lorde* by Alexis De Veaux; W.W. Norton

Any writer undertaking the task of the first biography of controversial and pioneering poet Audre Lorde, who "spent a lifetime defying socially imposed boundaries," has a tremendous responsibility and a formidable task. Alexis De Veaux has taken her project to heart in producing *Warrior Poet*, a most impressive account of the life and work of Audre Lorde. With much sensitivity and care, De Veaux not only provides readers with the private and public persona of the poet, but also examines the many "competing truths" that arose in

researching Lorde's life. This is a difficult and often delicate balance to sustain in the writing of an account of anyone's life, especially that of Audre Lorde.

Born in Harlem of Grenadian parents, Lorde had a troublesome childhood where, by her own admission, she felt "lonely, unwanted, and unloved." Although she describes her father's nature as "silent, intense, and unforgiving," Lorde grew up in an "insular, black female world." Her working mother was emotionally distant, and both parents were very much a product of the provincial culture of the English-speaking Caribbean. High-school classmate and longtime friend Diane di Prima early on observed in Lorde "depths of sadness, a lot of secrets, and a lot of reserve."

With the publication of her

poetry collection *Coal* (1976) and "Norton's stamp of approval, Audre Lorde became the first out black lesbian to crash the gates of the literary mainstream." Initially, W.W. Norton rejected the manuscript, and it was rumored that it was Adrienne Rich's "quiet input" that would encourage Norton to finally publish the book. Her identity as a "black, lesbian, feminist, mother, poet warrior" would unfortunately relegate her to the status of outsider in the world of literary publishing. Along with di Prima, Lorde would "owe a great debt" to Rich, who both supported and promoted her work and publication.

Creatively, Lorde would rail against "this curse of writing" and the need to have "the courage to create," but would struggle to continue to do so, publishing 14 books over her lifetime, five under the Norton imprint. A longtime editor for *Chrysalis* magazine, Lorde was often uncomfortable with "white feminist audiences," in particular academics: tenured professors, managers, and department-heads of various women's studies programs who became, in her mind, nothing more than an "ole girls network."

Politically, Lorde was "a veteran of many social wars, she understood the fight for lesbian and gay liberation as one of the last frontiers upon which social justice, in America, would be fought." She would argue against "the politics of exclusion" in the nascent years of the feminist and gay liberation movements, and "warned of the

necessity to resist the divide-and-conquer tactics that historically segregated differing communities from each other."

## Two lives

De Veaux appropriately divides her biography of Lorde into two parts. She "lived two lives — in her first, the themes of escape, freedom, and self-actualization were crucial determinants." Her second life came after having been diagnosed first with breast cancer, and eventually with liver cancer. De Veaux is most observant in concluding her biography before her final battle with the disease, and it is a curious dilemma for biographers: should writers be remembered for their work or for the various diseases that, very often, alter their "personality, creativity, and social activism," and inevitably silence their voices?

*The Cancer Journals* (1980), published by Spinsters Ink, would be her classic account of her physical and emotional struggle with breast cancer, and it "pioneered wider discourse on the disease within feminist circles."

*Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (1982) would become Lorde's "masterwork" that examined her "complex identities," including her rootlessness and search for a spiritual home: "Carry my heart to some shore/that my feet will not shelter/Do not let me die/still/needing to be a stranger."

*Zami* is essentially a "quest for love, identity, and the soul's fulfillment that recognized the poet's Caribbean heritage." In the same



year, Lorde published *Chosen Poems: Old and New*, which were met with some fierce and often condescending reviews. *Publishers Weekly* wrote that for Lorde, "poetry is an expression of whatever happens to be on your mind at any given time." The review went on to remark that she "is by and large unconcerned with the mechanics of poetry, her voice is undisturbed."

Addressing Winnie Mandela in the poem "The Evening News," she writes: "in the streets of Soweto and Brooklyn/(what does it mean/our wars/being fought by our children?)

"there is no metaphor for blood/flowing from children/these are your deaths/or your judgments."

Lorde was a voice few could ignore, whose work became essential reading. Although she often "stood out as an angry, accusatory, isolated black feminist lesbian voice," more than a decade after her death, Lorde remains a compelling figure in contemporary American letters. ▼

## Bedtime stories

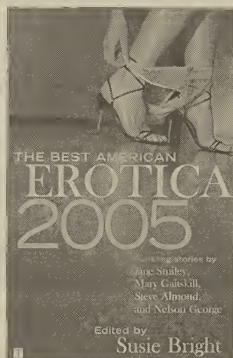
by Jim Piechota

*The Best American Erotica 2005* edited by Susie Bright; Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, \$14

This popular literary series, edited for the past 13 years by fiercely productive sexologist Susie Bright, is just as hot and horny here in its 2005 incarnation, and sure to incite a great amount of one-handed reading. The best thing about this annual release is that it consistently caters to wide-ranging tastes and fetishes, and doesn't subscribe to a narrow sexual panorama, as so many other collections do. There is something here for every proclivity under the rainbow.

Steve Almond, the genius behind last year's *Candyfreak*, opens the collection with "Slippy for President," in which a college dork who moves into off-campus housing with three hot blondes becomes "the man" after everyone drops Ecstasy and inhibitions magically unfurl. Award-winning writer Mary Gaitskill's luminous, eloquent story "The Ugly Cock Dance" illustrates the footloose choreography between a wistful husband and his weary wife whose vagina "felt tentative, weak and blind, like the moles her cat used to drag in."

Like sex itself, sometimes the quick, more concentrated entries often make the most memorable



impressions. While Robert Gluck's penetrating recollection of his first gay experience in 1969 and local expert Carol Queen's deliciously titillating summer story are only two pages long, both are as immensely satisfying as wolfing down a midnight snack over the kitchen counter.

San Francisco-based BDSM educator Mistress Morgana Maye's fascinating and informatively rich "session notes" might make readers long for a more adventurous sex life in the same way that (also local) Greta Christina's "View from the Fourteenth Floor" will. Other highlights range from 61-year-old Bert Hart's colonial, bodice-ripping daydream "My Puritan Reader" and the African-

page 41 ►

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# Global village people

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Television testifies to what a small planet Earth is. *Star Trek* taught us that years ago, from the vantage point of galaxies far, far away. But the tsunami catastrophe has underscored it like nothing else in recent memory. Since December 26, other news has managed to eke onto the airwaves — Brad (Pitt) and Jen (Aniston) are splitting up; Wolfgang Puck is making adorable little canapés in the shape of Oscars for the Academy Awards; the Bushes have a new dog, Miss Beazley — but frivolity has taken a back seat over the past weeks as this monumental human and planetary tragedy plays out.

Play out it will, for years to come. But in the immediate aftermath, the video images are stunning, heart- and gut-wrenching in the truest senses of those cliché phrases. Diane Sawyer was one of the first major newscasters on the scene, reporting for *Good Morning*

*America*. Putting an individual face on the vastness of the horror was her spin, and with her we watched a California man, his son and daughter search for the fourth member of their family, the missing middle daughter, just turned 15. As Sawyer talked to him of his fears that she would not be found alive, her sister found a photograph among the hundreds of dead. The daughter/sister they had prayed was still alive and simply lost somewhere was officially, irrevocably dead. Their grief, staved off by hope for several days, came crashing onto them with the force of the wave that had killed this beautiful young girl.

Yet this family was among the lucky ones who knew what had happened to their loved ones, even if the result was tragic. Thousands more will never know what happened to their missing, many of whom were swept out to sea. Oprah's designer guru of home makeovers, Nate Berkus, was vacationing in Phuket with his partner, fashion photographer Fer-

nando Bengoechea, when Fernando was swept away by the wave.

Only ABC, as reported by Sawyer the day after the tragedy, was able to say the word "partner." Other networks referred to Fernando as Nate's "good friend," including closet-case Jerry Pennacoli on *Extra*, who said Nate refused to leave the island until he found Fernando. For those who can't seem to grasp why queers want the same rights as straights, this would be a reason. The coverage supermodel Petra Nemkova received when her lover, fashion photographer Simon Atlée, was swept away was massive. Nate and Fernando were a footnote. (Except to good friend Oprah. According to *ET*, Oprah sent a special team of former Marines to help find Fernando.)

Meanwhile, Nate himself didn't seem to have a problem declaring his love for Fernando. His website gave this statement: "I am safe. Your prayers have been a blessing through all of this. The search for my partner Fernando Bengoechea continues, and your support in this search has provided comfort and solace to me and those close to Fernando. I ask that we all continue to pray and come together, as a people, in providing aid to those in need. I thank you for allowing me and those close to me to have the time we need to heal through this devastation." He followed his statement with a list of aid organizations that folks can contribute to.

Other TV and movie celebs have done their part to aid victims of the tsunami as well, although one question does resound: Why are those raising money for the victims the same left-leaning faces we always see: Sandra Bullock, Leonardo Di Caprio, Susan Sarandon, George Clooney, Alysa Milano, Sarah Jessica Parker, Ellen DeGeneres, Jane Kaczmarek, Bradley Whitford, Jay Leno and many others. What happens to the Republicans when tragedy strikes? Must they always rush to an undisclosed location? Patricia Heaton is certainly raking in the bucks from her Emmys for *Everybody Loves Raymond* and her commercial deals. Why wasn't she (just one example of the right wing of Hollywood) pledging some bucks and helping to raise them?

## American misstep

No tragedy is without its counterpoint debacle, and TV has recorded the latest. Beyond the embarrassment of having both the UN and the Red Cross admonish the Bush Administration for "stinginess," beyond the appalling lack of political finesse by President Bush refusing to speak out personally about the tragedy until four days after it happened, beyond the cravenness of Bush sending his brother Jeb with lame-duck Secretary of State Colin Powell to the region (Jeb being the frontrunner for 2008), beyond the Bush-mandated decision to make private donations to tsunami relief creditable to 2004 tax returns in order to pass the buck to the private sector and ordinary individuals, beyond all the missteps and missed opportunities to help the world's most populous Muslim nation, Indonesia, and the world's poorest people, was the

simple fact that through either incompetence or mean-spiritedness, the Bush Administration (don't blame the US government and certainly not the very generous US citizens) has taken a proprietary stance in the region of the disaster without complementing that with aid.

Australia has an eighth of the US population and less than a 10th of the US GDP, so why are they the lead donor? Why is the US so far down the list? And why is the US media lauding Bush's efforts, which are not commensurate with US capabilities, when TV worldwide is doing just the opposite?

As recently as presstime, Powell (who surrendered his last shred of dignity throughout this catastrophe by haggling with people like George Stephanopoulos on *This Week* over what the US should give) was saying the US promise of money was just that, and we weren't giving any more than the few million we've surrendered until it was necessary. Boo, hiss. If this were an NBA game, we'd toss a drink at you!

**If this were an episode of 'Law & Order,' Attorney General-designate Alberto Gonzalez would not be confirmed. If only life imitated art.**

TV also gave us a few more unsavory tidbits about the fallout from the tsunami, namely that Arab TV has formed its own view of the disaster: It was caused by Americans doing nuclear testing in the area. This would be viewed everywhere as just another crazy conspiracy theory if the US weren't still building new nuclear weapons, a nuclear submarine hadn't been lost near the affected area, and the US hadn't terrorized the entire Middle East with the war on Iraq. As it happens, it isn't accurate. But tell that to the millions of Muslims watching worldwide. Still winning those hearts and minds...

Speaking of hearts and minds, kudos to Sen. Barbara Boxer, who still has hers, for being the only Senator willing to take a stand on the formalizing of the vote count for the 2004 election. Outrageous problems at polling places in Ohio led once again to a seeming disenfranchisement of voters of color in November. When the certification of the electoral college votes came to Capitol Hill last week, Boxer stood before millions on TV for integrity. Bravo!

## Torture maven

We know TV is prone to reruns, but it did seem like *déjà vu* all over again on January 7 when the same Democratic faces (as well as renegade Republican Sens. Arlen Specter and Lindsay Graham) pounded Attorney General-designate Alberto Gonzalez during the hearings for his confirmation. Once again, the photos of Abu Ghraib were shown on every network. Once again, the memos by Gonzalez touting the Geneva Convention as "obsolete" and "quaint" were blasted across the small screen. If this were an episode of *Law & Order*, Gonzalez would not be confirmed. If only life would imitate art more often.

That imitation has been well-served by this season's superb re-crafting of NBC's *The West Wing*. Alison Janney is making her way toward another Emmy with her performance as Chief of Staff CJ Craig. This week found conservative blogs insinuating that CJ was a lesbian (the character has always been decidedly straight, if unlucky in her choices). Discourse on how to address the issue — a statement saying she wasn't gay, and so forth — was discussed. An anti-gay-marriage rider was being tacked onto a budget bill. Half the staff was for expediency, and half was for integrity — just like real life. In the end, the President demanded the rider be removed from the bill, and CJ refused to answer the press on the issue of her sexuality, saying it was none of their business, but that no one should be treated this way. *WW* makes us wish Jed Bartlet were President instead of Mr. Compassionate Conservative.

Another queer storyline to watch is evolving on *NYPD Blue*, where Currie Graham's new lieutenant is a closet case who has already been taken by a hustler. It looks promising. Perhaps a way will be found to get Bill Brochtrup some action as well, since he's been playing queer for eight sea-

sons on the show thus far, with nary a storyline.

Other VCR alerts include NBC's new drama *Medium*, with Patricia Arquette. It's fabulous, and Arquette is super in the role of the seer who helps police solve crimes. Edgy, creepy, fun: everything one wants in a well-written, well-acted drama, and so rarely gets. NBC's new sitcom *Committed* is a miss, however. Don't let the promos with the guy in the wheelchair fool you. This is just another relationship sitcom as paralyzed as the guy in the chair.

The new CBS reality series *Wickedly Perfect* is for all those Nate wannabes. In the *Survivor* slot, it's a delightful if guilty pleasure as we see would-be design doyennes vaunt their stuff. We can just see Martha Stewart angling to watch it in the common room at Camp Cupcake.

On an even queerer front, we are so happy the Christmas miracle brought Bianca and her baby back together. But will the new year get Bianca a girlfriend? Maggie still seems game, even if Jonathan is trying to undercut her return to Bianca's arms. Well worth staying tuned. Now celebrating its 35th anniversary, *All My Children* just gets better and better.

Finally, we saw Nelson Mandela talking on the news the other day. He revealed that his only surviving son, Makotho, had just died of complications due to AIDS. Mandela, whose personal suffering never seems to end, said he wanted to break the silence because that is the only way AIDS will be destigmatized, treated and cured. In case anyone in Washington is watching, *that's* what a world leader looks like: selfless and concerned for the greater good.

If you haven't yet made a donation to the tsunami effort, several telethons are being held in upcoming days by lefty celebs. ▼



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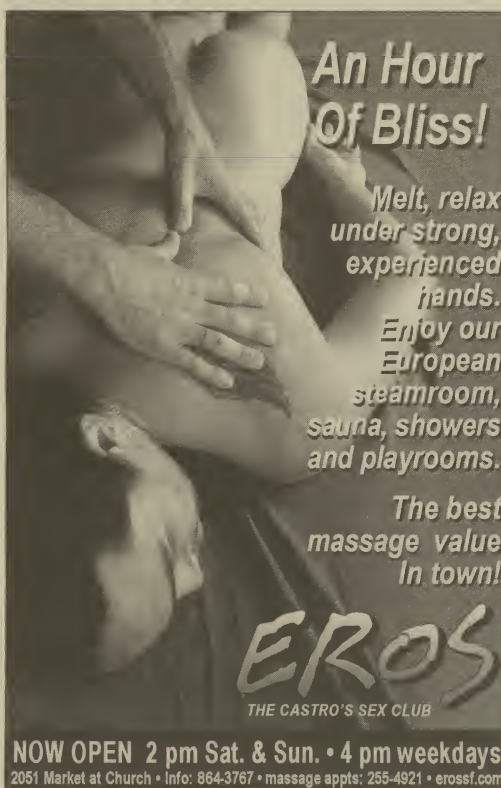
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## MUSIC

# Impossible dreamer

Patty Griffin writes the songs

by Gregg Shapiro

**A**claimed singer/songwriter Patty Griffin, whose songs have been covered by Bette Midler, Emmylou Harris, and The Dixie Chicks, comes out testifying on her album *Impossible Dream* (ATO). You can almost hear her raising her hand over head and stomping her foot as she sings the album-opener, "Love Throw a Line." The material takes a serious but accessible turn on the rest of the disc.

Gregg Shapiro: You celebrated a milestone birthday, 40, this year. How did you mark the occasion?

Patty Griffin: We did our big celebration in New Orleans, one of my favorite places in the world. My parents came, and a lot of friends came. Just walked around the beautiful old city.

There's a spiritual/gospel/tent-revival quality to some of the songs on your new disc.

Well, I listen to that old-time, country gospel kind of stuff, specifically the Staple Singers, their older stuff. The songs were written by people who were either slaves or not far removed from slavery. They're talking about very painful things, yet every time I listen to a Staples record, within 15 minutes I feel really hopeful and uplifted!

That type of music is almost a way to dance your troubles away. There's beauty in that music. It's sort of written into the formula.

"Cold As It Gets" rang for me as a powerful, timeless antiwar song. Have you had the chance to perform it at any antiwar events?

It's really inspired by a story about the Holocaust. I never meant for it to be an antiwar song, although I am antiwar in every way. I don't believe wars ever solve anything.

The song was inspired by a story I heard from Americans who were kept in concentration camps and experienced the march they



'I'm a blubbering, emotional person.'

sent everybody on when the Allied troops were moving in to take over Germany. I heard a story about somebody who had spent the last couple years of his life being tortured, and could barely hold a gun, and the first thing he wanted to do was have a gun. You know, a lot of these guys wanted to have their guns back, and go and kill these people. One of the guys wanted to steal a car and hunt down the person who had really harmed him. It was a revelation to me that that kind of darkness would create that kind of darkness. That's what the song came out of.

I saw a documentary on PBS last summer about Berga, the concentration camp where they sent American POWs if they suspected them of being Jewish.

How would you describe your style?

I think I'm a big, blubbering, emotional person! When I'm singing, I'm trying to push through to a higher place to look at things from.

There's a coda sung by your parents at the end of "Top of the World." That seems like a person-

al thing to share with your fans. What was the impetus for that?

The record has a lot to do with my own fears and doubts for the future of human beings. And my parents have lived through so much. They both lived through the Depression, my father was a veteran of WWII. He was part of the Normandy Beach D-Day invasion; he survived it. They've taken all of this stuff they've lived through and really focused on their responsibility and their humanity. I think they're really inspiring people, and I'm also very aware of their imperfections.

I understand you were joined by Phoebe Snow at your Cutting Room showcase in NYC. What was that like?

It was pretty fun! I was little when "Poetry Man" was a big hit, but my older sister was in love with her. It was really exciting to hear her sing two feet away from me.

What does it mean to you to be a singer/songwriter at this time in musical history?

I feel lucky that it's what I do for a living. I'm sure you can relate, being a writer. We're really lucky that we have a platform to speak from, and try to connect to other human beings. A lot of people don't have that outlet, and I think it's really important, right now, to be able to connect with others. ▼

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## Merchant

◀ page 28

n't mean to say that you're necessarily homosexual. I happen to think that Antonio is and Bassanio isn't. Bassanio uses him. What's important is the relationship between them. Whether they've actually done it or not is kind of uninteresting."

Radford notes that setting part of the film in Venice — with its colorful, fetid street-life, bare-breasted prostitutes, food merchants and masked figures up to no good — allowed him to make certain analogies to today's global politics. "The Venetians were only interested in getting rich, and the Jews helped them to do that. In fact, the Jews were very rich, too, and they had great friendships with the Muslims. It's funny to think of them in this day and age, but actually there was no anti-

Jewish quality at all amongst the Muslims."

Radford chillingly explains why, after 400 years, *The Merchant of Venice* is still too raw a drama for modern sensibilities.

"There's a moment when they have brought Shylock to his knees, when they order him to become a Christian. That's often seen as the most devastating anti-Semitic moment in the play. It's not. If you see it in modern psychological terms (the way Jeremy Irons plays it), Antonio thinks he's doing Shylock a favor, that he's saving his soul!"

"I've been quoted often as saying that that's what we appear to be doing in Iraq. We're saving people's souls who don't want to be saved. And in doing it, we take away their self-respect. You take away a man's self-respect, and he becomes very dangerous indeed. And that's what they do to Shylock." *Opens Friday.* ▼



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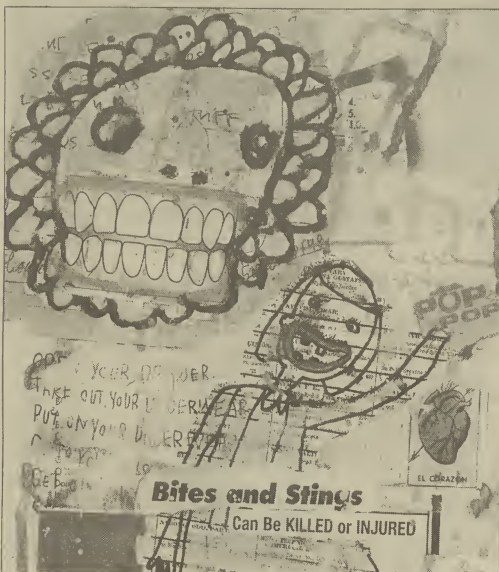
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# OUT & ABOUT



Brian McDonald's "Recent Developments in the Salad Industry" is on display at National Product. See Friday.

## Calendare by Mark Mardon

### Lorca and more

This week begins with a bang. The weekend is packed with rich cultural events, many with a strong queer connection, so don't say there's nothing to do in San Francisco.

On the menu are Héctor Schujman's *What A Crime!* García Lorca, a play about one of the great gay writers of the last century, persecuted by a right-wing, repressive state that could not tolerate his liberal politics, and especially detested his homosexuality. José Luis Leiva directs the production at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, which runs through February 5.

One of the dance scene's most famous choreographers, Remy Charlip, teamed up with fellow choreographer/dancer Joanna Haigood to create *Dances Around the House*, a solo piece by Haigood that brings to life some of Charlip's famed "Air Mail Dances," the sort of entertainment Charlip has been bringing to the world for decades. He and Haigood are utilizing the unique space at The Exploratorium to play with shadows.

It's been a long time coming, but Tommi Avicelli Mecca's solo piece *Italian.Queer.Dangerous* opens Friday at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, and it's a chance for locals to find out what makes this city's most outspoken queer activist tick. Is he really all that dangerous?

*Princess Bride* returns for an extended run at The Dark Room, that tiny hole of a theater in the Mission District, and if you can squeeze in you're guaranteed a load of laughs and much derring-do as a great cast including the dashing Josh Lenn and the lovely Nancy Bower recreate this pirate farce with much grimacing and scowling on the part of the villains and many heroics on the part of the good guys, with some lively fencing thrown in.

The Lamplighters are back at Yerba Buena Center Theatre with another Gilbert and Sullivan masterpiece, *Yeoman of the Guard*, and if you aren't already on the G&S bandwagon, hop on before you get left behind! The always-campy G&S romps will lift your spirits with much silliness and some very dizzy songs, all rendered with style and panache by the very talented Lamplighters crew.

Mary Alice Fry and her Footloose project have found a new home at Dance Mission, and are presenting a full month of Women on the Way (WOW), packed with an amazing array of artists. Pay special attention to Fresh Meat Productions in Choreographer's Repertory section, as Sean Dorsey presents her sweet, short piece, *Second Kiss*, in which he and a partner enact "an honest, vulnerable and humorous portrait of a 4th grade genderqueer's adrenaline-filled plunge into first love. Says Dorsey: "Second Kiss tells the story of the narrator (myself) who — passing as a boy — has his first kiss with the magnetic new girl in school."

The Cockettes continue to host weekend salons in conjunction with Rumi Missabu's magnificent, hugely colorful installation at the Giorgi Gallery in Berkeley, and this coming weekend the focus is on the remarkable jackets and wall hangings created by Bill Bowers and Mark Phillips, which have attracted many prolonged oohs and aahs over the past two weekends. Plus there's music by Farasha, projections by Fayette, and a special showing of Cockettes-related films by Tomata du Plenty and others at Gilman Street, the famed Berkeley punk-rock warehouse. ▼

## Fri 14

### What A Crime! García Lorca @ Mission Cultural Center

Opening night: Teatro Didáctico Popular and MCLCA present *What A Crime!* García Lorca (*Qué Crimen!*; García Lorca), a play by Héctor Schujman. Directed by José Luis Leiva. Federico García Lorca is one of the giants of Spanish literature. But in 1936 he became an early casualty of the Spanish civil war when he was assassinated by the Falangists of Francisco Franco's regime. The play *What A Crime!* García Lorca is based on a study which looks at the duplicity between the Church and the Falangists and the role they played in Lorca's murder. Blending Lorca's stunning poetry, and juxtaposing it against the harshness of right-wing military reality, playwright Schujman and director Leiva create a tapestry of ideas through the use of magical realism. The actors bring to life the passion of this literary genius and the cruelty and arbitrary nature of Francisco Franco's Nationalists. Says director Leiva: "The Falange targeted Lorca because he was so advanced in his thinking and fostering of popular theatre, which gave him a left-wing reputation, and because he was gay... To be gay in that time was comparable to heresy." \$20 adults; \$10 senior/student. 8pm Thu.-Sat.. Closes Saturday, February 5. Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission St. Tix: 415-643-2785. Info: 415-643-5001; www.missionculturalcenter.org.

### Italian.Queer.Dangerous

#### @ Jon Sims Center

Opening night: Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents *Italian.Queer.Dangerous*, a one-man show featuring Tommi Avicelli Mecca, directed by Francesca Prada. Through monologue and spoken word, well-known San Francisco queer activist and writer Avicelli Mecca tells his story of growing up gay in South Philly's Little Italy. At age 19, fired up with new pride in being gay, he came out to the world — and his traditional Roman Catholic southern Italian famiglia — on a TV talk show. The rest is history, and the subject of this performance. \$5-10 sliding (NOTAFLIP). Seating is limited. 8pm. Plays Fri. & Sat. nights only, Jan. 14, 15; 12, 22, 28, 29. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St. (btwn Van Ness & 11th) Tix/info: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimscntr.org.

### Princess Bride: The Play

#### @ The Dark Room

*Princess Bride: The Play*, Impossible Productions' tribute to the hottest fairy tale ever written. The impossibly lovely Buttercup falls in love with Westley, a poor, perfect farm boy who dies at the hands of the Dread Pirate Roberts. The failed hunter, Prince Humperdinck, convinces Buttercup to marry him, but not before the land's most notorious criminal ensemble, Vizzini the Sicilian, Fezzik the giant and Inigo the fencer, kidnap her — with the mysterious Man in Black hot on their trail. They face the Cliffs of Insanity, traverse the Fire Swamp, rage against the Machine and go to the Chapel of Love; but they'll need a Miracle before this inconceivable epic of passions ends happily ever after. Directed by Cameron Eng & Jim Fourniades and produced by Erin Ohanneson & Cameron Eng. Starring: Don Wood, Nancy Bower, Josh Lenn, John Filgas, Mark Para, Cameron Eng, Jim Fourniades, Seannetta, Laura Rose, and Patrick Biggs. \$15 at the door; \$12.50 at www.atevea.com/go/impdoo. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 4pm; January 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30, 2005 The Dark Room Theater, 2263 Mission St. (btwn 18th & 19th). Info: 415-643-2785.

### WOW @ Dance Mission

Footloose presents the *Fifth Annual Women on the Way Festival (WOW)*. A three-week program curated by Artistic Director Mary Alice Fry. Tonight: Mina Liccione in *Della Pancha* and Counterpoint in *tearher and Obstructing Sidewalk Traffic*. Plus: Choreographer's Repertory featuring Company Mecanique Dance Theater with Sara Shelton-Mann; Fresh Meat Productions with Sean Dorsey, Jenice Astoia Movers; Frank and Bryan Dance with Hilary Bryan, and Angelina Nicole's *Imaginary Friends*. The festival runs Jan. 13-30, Thu.-Sun. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 415-289-2000; www.ftloose.org.

### Baggage Claim @ The LAB

Choreographers Ann Robideaux and Paula Plessas, with composer Ted Coffey, present *Baggage Claim*, a dance that explores the various meanings of travel and the insights of venturing upon life's inner journey. Performed by Emily Abrahams, Carl Bellinghausen, Molly Klaproth, Kristiane Kooztz, and Nol Simson. \$12-\$20 sliding at door;

\$15 prepaid reserved; \$25 prepaid beneficiary's ticket for closing night. 8pm. Jan. 14-16. The LAB, 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 415-864-8855; www.thelab.org.

### Yeoman of the Guard @ YBCA Theater

Opening night: The Lamplighters present Gilbert & Sullivan's beautiful operetta, *The Yeoman of the Guard*, featuring a score widely considered Arthur Sullivan's most complex and extraordinary, alongside W.S. Gilbert's effervescent lyrics. A prisoner who escapes from the Tower of London assumes the identity of a guardsman. Will the handsome Colonel Fairfax be put to death? Will the strolling jester, Jack Point, win over the beautiful Elsie Maynard? What happens when Leonard comes back to claim his real identity as the Yeoman of the Guard? \$30-\$42 adults; \$25-\$37 seniors/young adults; \$10-\$17 children/students. 8pm weeknights & Sat.; 2pm weekend matinees. Thru Jan. 23 at YBCA (followed by shows Jan. 27-30 at Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek). Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater. Tix: 415-978-2787; lamplighters.org.

### Fairy Butch: The Big Girl Show @ 12 Galaxies

Vixen Creations & ADS Hats present *In Bed With Fairy Butch: The Big Girl Show!* If you're into the ample woman, you will be amply rewarded! Voluptuous, thick, buxom, curvy, plump, big, bodacious, plenty of junk in the trunk — they'll all be represented. All sizes, colors, styles, butch, femme, andro and none of the above sorts of dykes and transies and their pals are welcome. Enjoy the Tingle & Mingle Game! After the show, hip-hop, disco, '80s, R&B and old school dance party with DJ Atomic Pop! \$10-\$15 sliding (includes a sex toy extravaganza raffle ticket). 9pm doors; 10pm show. 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission St. at 22nd St. Info: 415-FEZ-8000; www.fairybutch.com.

### Sharon McNight's Cabaret 101

@ Michael's Octavia Lounge & Cabaret Showroom presents "Cabaret 101" — An Introduction to Cabaret by Professor Sharon McNight, BA, MA, & BS, covering the history of *Fanny's*, *Trinity Place*, and *Chez Jacques* in an evening of song and dish, with Michael Grossman at the piano. \$20 cover w/ \$10 food or beverage minimum. 6-8pm. Shows on Fri., Jan. 14, & 21 at 9pm; Sat. Jan. 15 & 22 at 9pm; and Sun., Jan. 16 & 23 at 3pm (brunch served 10:30am-3pm). Located directly across Market St. from Martuni's.

### Haigood/Charlip: Dances Around the House

#### @ The Exploratorium

*Dances Around the House*, a solo dance work created by collaborating choreographers Joanna Haigood and Remy Charlip. For more than 25 years Charlip has been sending his invention *Air Mail Dances* to soloists and companies all over the world. The performer/choreographer receives drawn dance scores of 20 single figures on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper and without instructions from Charlip, orders them, creates transitions between positions and provides the context and meaning. Haigood will bring five of Charlip's scores to life in *Dances Around the House*, including "Dance for a Doorway," "Sweeping Dance," and "Dances for Three Steps." Sculptor Wayne Campbell will design a set of objects typically found in a house, which will be suspended above the Exploratorium's Distorted Room. Haigood, an Artist-in-Residence at the Exploratorium, has

been working on the phenomenon of shadows, which will be a primary component of this new work. Haigood's work has always centered on creating dances that use natural, architectural and cultural environments as settings for the exploration of history and movement, while investigating dance as it relates to place. She has received many prestigious honors for her work. Charlip's extensive career has included performing with John Cage, dancing and designing costumes for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Free w/same-day admission or \$12 at door on performance nights (Fri., Jan. 14 & Sat., Jan. 15, 8pm. The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon St. Info: 415-822-6744; www.zaccho.org.

### Phil Chambliss

#### @ YBCA Screening Room

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents a one-time-only screening of *Phil Chambliss: Auteur from Arkansas*. As a self-taught "folk-art" filmmaker from El Dorado, Arkansas, this outsider artist has created almost 30 films over the past three decades. Chambliss, a gravel pit worker from the rural South, is a true example of D.I.Y. culture and the results are amazing. The screenings will include three works: *The Devil's Helper*, *The Pastor and the Hobo* and Chambliss' magnum opus *Pink Christmas*, a story of love, lust, loss and just enough greed and blackmail to obtain the best damn deer dog in Calhoun County. While not all viewers will relate to the Southern rural culture on display, the common themes and unique vision in these films will touch a broad spectrum of viewers, despite one's surroundings. \$8 general, \$5 seniors/teachers/students/Center Members. 7:30 PM. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room. 415-978-ARTS (2787). www.ybca.org.

### Lesbian/Gay Contra Dance @ Women's Bldg.

Contra maven Mavis McGaugh calls to the live music of the K-Jammers. Contra is easy to learn — no fancy footwork, and each dance is taught as you do it. No partner, special attire or experience required. \$10 (or pay what you can). 8-10:30pm (doors open 7-8:30). Women's Bldg., 35-43 18th St. (btwn Guerrero/Vaencia). Info: www.lcfd.org/sf

### Queer Open Mic

#### @ Three Dollar Bill Cafe

Queer Open Mic, hosted by Cindy M. Emch with featured reader Wendy-O-Matic. Pro grrrr, pro boi, and completely genderqueer in scope, the night aims to create a space for spoken word, poetry and performance that is feminist, multi cultural, multi gendered, completely inclusive and dynamic. Prizes for all readers and a special drawing for one lucky audience member! \$1-\$5 donation. 7:30pm singing; reading at 8pm. Three Dollar Bill Cafe, 1800 Market St. at Octavia (first floor).

## Sat 15

### So In Love: The Songs of Cole Porter @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center brings back Meg Mackay and Billy Philadelphia in the encore presentation of their 2004 summer hit cabaret show, *So In Love*, which features the music and lyrics of Cole Porter, one of America's best loved and most sophisticated songwriters. Songs include "Night and Day", "Just One Of Those Things", "Begin the Beguine", "Let's Do It (Let's Fall In Love)", and the title song from the 1948 Broadway show (1953 movie) "Kiss Me, Kate." Meg Mackay is a leading light of the Bay Area musical theatre scene with appearances with 42nd St. Moon, Theatre Works, Mountain Play, San Jose Rep and more. Billy Philadelphia has been musical director for several Bay Area TV shows and accompanied Dame Edna in her hit show *The Royal Tour*. His debut CD, *Hoagy & Me (On Stage Music)* showcases Hoagy Carmichael tunes. \$25 Fri. & Sat.; \$20 Sun. matinee. Shows Jan. 15- Feb. 6, Fri. & Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 3pm. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org.



Joanna Haigood and Remy Charlip collaborate in "Dances Around the House" at The Exploratorium. See Friday.





Artists at Emeryville's Hollis Street Project, including James Stanley Daugherty, contribute to "Commotion." See Sunday.

### Farasha & Fayette

#### @ Giorgi Gallery, Berkeley

Berkeley's Giorgi Gallery hosts "A Cocktail of Glamour and Anarchy," the fabulous Cockettes art exhibit and performance salon series curated by Rumi Missabou. Special evening salon with live music by Farasha (Randy David vocals; Chris Albert, guitar & vocals; Bonnie Parker, violin), and Majika Lanterna, projected images with accompanying essays by Fayette of the Cockettes, presenting pictures out of the past vividly evoking the Cockettes' era. Free. 7pm. Giorgi Gallery, 2911 Claremont Ave. (at Ashby), Berkeley. Info: [www.giorgigallery.com](http://www.giorgigallery.com)

### Rita Moreno

#### @ Empire Plush Room

Oscar Winner, Emmy Winner, Tony Winner Rita Moreno returns to the Empire Plush Room for the first time in over three years. Fresh from her critically-acclaimed performance as Maria Callas in Berkeley Rep's production of *Master Class*, and her six seasons on HBO's *Oz*, this electrifying performer will take the stage in a return to her musical past. Runs Jan. 11-Feb. 6. \$40-\$50 plus two drink minimum. Empire Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 415-885-2800; [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com) Info: [www.plushroom.com](http://www.plushroom.com)

### WOW @ Dance Mission

Footloose presents the Fifth Annual Women on the Way Festival (WOW). A three-week program curated by Artistic Director Mary Alice Fry. Tonight: Rocco Rique: Red Gate Performance Collective Project in Reconnaissance and Bekka's Frogland Orchestra in *War n' the Worms*; and Counterpoint in *tearher and Obstructing Sidewalk Traffic*. Plus: Choreographer's Repertory. The festival runs Jan. 13-30, Thu.-Sun. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 415-289-2000; [www.ftloose.org](http://www.ftloose.org)

### Teen Playwriting Workshop @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents a Teen Playwriting Workshop for middle and high school students, at the request of parents and students. Intro to creating scripted works, such as theatre games, improvis and other exercises. During the 15-week workshop, each student will develop an original script of 10-20 min. in length. Instructor: Janna Sobel. 1-3pm. Jan. 15-May 7. Info: 415-861-4914; [www.nctc.org](http://www.nctc.org)

## Sun 16

### Bill Bowers & Mark Phillips @ Giorgi Gallery, Berkeley

Berkeley's Giorgi Gallery hosts "A Cocktail of Glamour and Anarchy." This afternoon featuring Bill Bowers and co-designer Mark Phillips who transform fantasies, fetishes, nightmares and obsessions into the latest word in customized clothing. Models will strut their stuff in avant-garde wearable collaged art fashions, resplendent with outrageous photo appliques. Bowers is a hoard of memorabilia, bric-a-brac, scraps of antique fabric, buttons, badges, erotica and other doodads — all destined to be assembled into some fantastic garment or hanging. Free. 2-4pm. Giorgi Gallery, 2911 Claremont Ave. (at Ashby), Berkeley. Info: [www.giorgigallery.com](http://www.giorgigallery.com)

### Cockettes films

#### @ Gilman St., Berkeley

Screening of films by Tomata Du Plenty of the band The Screemers: "Bon Voyage" and "Pick Up on Olivera Street." Also screening "Weekend Zombie Murders" and "Rat Girl Rhonda" by Carl Linhart (includes appearance by Cockette Ralph). Also David Weissman's "Four Beauties"

aka "Beauties without a cause" with Lulu, Tina Albright, and Sylvia Nova. \$5. 5pm. All ages, 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. Info: [TomataDuPlenty.com](http://TomataDuPlenty.com)

### Commotion @ Hollis Street Project, Emeryville

Opening reception: "Commotion," in which ten independent artists just can't leave well enough alone. Works by James Stanley Daugherty, Will Ashford, Lynden Aulani Tripp, Charles Reilly, Pat Koenigsberg, Donna M. Guenther, Peikwen Cheng, Julie London, Eileen Starr Moderbacher, and Elisabeth Montana. 1-4pm. Exhibition runs thru Feb. 25. 8am-6pm Mon.-Fri. Meet the Artist 1-2pm Mon.-Fri. Hollis Street Project, 5900 Hollis St., Emeryville. Info: [pmoa@jdsd.com](mailto:pmoa@jdsd.com)

### Brian McDonald

#### @ National Product

Just opened (1/13/05): "Recent Developments in the Salad Industry," paintings by SF artist Brian McDonald, a painter who lives and works in the Mission District with his dog Dylan. Says McDonald: "My paintings, inspired by cartoons and dream logic, deal with issues of aggression and anxiety. I feel we live in a society where aggression has become not only socially acceptable, but also a necessary trait for survival. Contemporary, capitalist, urban America has pushed competition — for jobs, housing, sex, \$, parking spaces — into an intense daily struggle. It is survival of the fittest, where you are either the hunter (full of aggression) or the hunted (full of anxiety). Quite often we are filled with both, which is what these paintings explore. At the same time, a rather dry and dark humor underscores the mood of my paintings and pokes fun at the absurdity of modern life." Through Feb. 19 at National Product, 1845 Market St. (near Guerrero). Info: 415-255-1920; [www.sillydilly.com](http://www.sillydilly.com)

### Seth Montfort @ Victorian Englander House

Victorian Englander House presents Seth Montfort, piano, performing Mozart's Sonata in C, K. 330, Milhaud's Tango de Fratellini, Mompou's Cancion y Danza 6 & Montfort's Old World Piano Symphony. \$7-\$12. 3pm. Victorian Englander House, 807 Franklin St. @ Turk. Info: 415-362-6080; [www.sflclassicalmusic.com](http://www.sflclassicalmusic.com)

## Mon 17

### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Please take a few moments or the whole day to honor a fallen hero, whose life and message hold invaluable lessons for all people, including lesbians and gays, who struggle for equality in a sometimes brutally unequal world. His ringing messages of nonviolent resistance, respect, dignity, justice and human rights still resonate loudly today.

### Ronald E. Long @ A Different Light Bookstore

Reading/book signing with Ronald E. Long, author of *Men, Homosexuality, and the Gods* (The Haworth Press) an exploration into the religious significance of male homosexuality in world perspective. The book examines the origins of holy directives involving homosexuality — whether forbidden, tolerated, or mandatory — and establishes a link between theology, sex roles, and the sensitive issue of masculinity. This text draws a parallel between homosexuality and the idea of religion, suggesting that gay rights can be understood as a freedom of religion issue. Long is Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Program in Religion, Hunter College, City University of New York. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891.

## Tue 18

### Kiddie @ Trannyshack

Two cult classics collide as Kiddie camps it up for an evening of "Rocky Horror Picture Show" vs. *Hedwig and The Angry Inch*. Peaches Christ fills Heklina's enormous shoes as hostess for the night. DJ Derek spins. \$7. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: [www.hekline.com](http://www.hekline.com)

### Frameline/Guinevere Turner @ Delancey Street

Frameline continues its series "Close-Up: Visionaries of Modern Cinema," with writer/director, actress Guinevere Turner, who made her mark on queer cinema in 1994 when she co-wrote and starred in *Rose Troche's* lesbian feature *Go Fish*. She has appeared in such cutting-edge films as *The Watermelon Woman* (dir. Cheryl Dunye), *Chasing Amy* (dir. Kevin Smith), and written *American Psycho*, *Hummer*, and the upcoming features *Bloodrayne* and *The Ballad of Betty Paige*. \$12 (\$10 student/senior/Frameline members). 8pm. Delancey Street Screening Room, 600 Embarcadero. Info: 415-703-8650.

## Wed 19

### Marcia Gallo on The Ladder

#### @ GLBT Historical Society

The GLBT Historical Society invites the public to a free talk on the early lesbian rights publication *The Ladder* by historian Marcia Gallo, followed by a guided tour of the archives of the Society. Published from 1956 to 1972, *The Ladder* was a monthly national magazine created by and for lesbians — the first of its kind in the U.S. Initially a recruitment/publicity tool for the Daughters of Bilitis, the all-female homophile group founded in SF in 1955, *The Ladder* became better known than the organization that created it. Gallo teaches the history of sexuality, U.S. history, and American studies at Lehman College in Bronx, New York. Free (donations appreciated). 5:30-7:30pm. GLBT Historical Society, 657 Mission St., Suite 300. Info: Jacob at 415-777-5455 ext. 5; [www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org)

### Debbie De Coudreaux

#### @ Teatro ZinZanni

Acclaimed Moulin Rouge star Debbie De Coudreaux makes an auspicious Teatro ZinZanni: Love, Chao! & Dinner debut in the featured role of the irresistible hostess/cabaret singer. Ms. de Coudreaux will join the international cast of actors, singers, aerialists, dancers and musicians in the magical spiegelent on the Embarcadero at Pier 29. \$110 Wed., Thu. & Sun.; \$135 Fri. & Sat. Showtime 6pm Wed.-Sat.; 5pm Sun. Tix: 415-438-2668; [www.zinzanni.org](http://www.zinzanni.org)

### Smack Dab @ Magnet

"Smack Dab," an open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-bob Roberts. Making the Castro safe for performance again. Featured performers: Juba Kalamka and Beth Lisk. Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany. Bring your charm and magic and cheerful can-do attitude. Or just come and watch and cheer folks on. All ages & genders welcomed and adored. Please respect the five minute limit. Musicians, one song please. Free. 7:30 pm sign-up, 8 pm show. Magnet, the gay men's neighborhood health center, 4122 18th St. btwn Castro & Collingwood. Info: [www.magnetsf.org](http://www.magnetsf.org)

## Thu 20

### Rebecca Solnit & David Solnit @ Modern Times Bookstore

Modern Times Bookstore hosts a politically charged double header with SF's own Solnit siblings. In *Hope in the Dark*, Rebecca Solnit traces the rise of a sophisticated, supple nonviolent new movement of movements that unites all the diverse and fragmentary issues of the '80s and '90s in our new century. *Globalize Liberation*, edited by David Solnit, weaves together the experiences and insights of community organizers, direct action movements, and global justice struggles from North America, Europe and Latin America. Free. 7pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 415-282-9246.

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©SPR 2005 PHOTO: David Allen



# Porn cornucopia

On barebacking, 'Kinsey' & a model's return

by John F. Karr

**Department of mea culpa:** I was hoping the questions about barebacking that I posed in my end-of-year column would provoke a turbulent reaction. Well, a storm has broken. But it's not the one I intended. So I'm starting the new year with a correction.

In the article, I asked whether I could review safer sex films from a company that also produced barebacking movies. Infelicitous phrasing in my article gave many readers the impression that Raging Stallion Studio was making barebacking movies. Regular cus-

tomers of the company called owner Chris Ward to complain and cancel orders. Distributors threatened to pull their RS product. While I'm glad to see that barebacking is such a hot-point issue, I'm sorry that my remarks darkened the reputation of Raging Stallion. For the record, Raging Stallion is not now nor has ever been making barebacking films.

Indeed, Ward's been working behind the scenes to discourage the making of such films, and to

educate performers who have appeared in them. So, unlike Chi Chi LaRue's company Rascal Video, which will not knowingly engage a performer who has previously barebacked on film, Raging Stallion will. But under specific terms. Ward told me, "We'll hire



## Karnal Knowledge

former barebackers under the condition that they sign a statement that repudiates their bareback past." In other words, that they've seen the light, and will cease their misguided ways. At least during their tenure at Raging Stallion. "Our goal," Ward said, "is to move people away from barebacking and back into the mainstream."

Bo Knight and Carlos Morales are among the recent RS stars who realized it was to their benefit to cease barebacking. Sean Storm wouldn't sign, so he's no longer a RS performer. So, please, fans: continue to devour Raging Stallion's fine films. Chris Ward is one of the good guys. After clearing up the bareback issue with me, he was still concerned. "Is there anything wrong with our oral cumshots?" he asked.

"Yeah," I replied.

"What's that?"

"They're not in my mouth."

**And take your Bible with you:** I finally got to see *Kinsey*. I cried several times during this fine movie. Tales of repression and the fight for sexual rights have that effect. But what struck me the most was the final dramatic scene. Kinsey has made a last-ditch visit to Huntington Hartford, who turns down his request for funding. The reason? "That would be endorsing sex." And that, in a nutshell, is why the majority of straight people won't give us civil rights, or let us marry. Most of them define us only through our sexuality. Rec-



Kirby Scott smoldered in the '70s; Josef Myska, unmasked in the '00s.

ognizing us as people would be endorsing sex. Which, as we all know, is quickly followed by the end of the world. Straight people — hah! Personally, I think they should all be deported.

**Department of old friends:** In the '70s, a couple of *Colt* magazines and fuck films smoldered with a kid named Kirby Scott. The delinquent type, his face, body and attitude were nothing but danger. I, for one, would gladly have accompanied him to the bad end he promised. But we moved on, separately. He to parts unknown, I to the back pages of the *B.A.R.* and the treasured souvenir of his photographs.

Many years later, I was following the progress of 30something Josef Myska, a strikingly handsome, somewhat blunt-featured, extremely ripped and excessively masculine model. He progressed from underwear ads to those all-

nude but non-sexual films advertised in *Playgirl* ("Full Frontal Nudity!" is the promise of *Spike It Naked* — young musclemen play strip volleyball! and *Naked in the City* — eight gangbangers are stripped and find their way home naked!).

As Josef's physique grew statuesque and his modeling skill rarefied, he entered the studios of the day's top art-photographers. Then, one day, as I gazed fondly at these physique studies, I gasped. I recognized that penis! It was Kirby Scott's! Indeed, the boy of truculence and danger had become a man of masculine and muscular repose. I stumbled onto a website with scads of photos from both ends of his career; if you Google Josef Myska, you'll find some, too. Unlike Tony Ward, another youthful obsession, who sinks further into the morass for which Kirby Scott seemed destined, Mr. Myska becomes finer with each day. ▼

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Photo courtesy of Raging Stallion

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## Brazil and beyond

by Jason Serinus

**Iaiá** - Monica Salmaso (World Village)

The slightly throaty, liquid voice of Brazilian balladeer Monica Salmaso is sure to have its way with you. The warmth and ease of her singing won her the 1999 Visa-Mastercard-Eldorado Prize for best singer in Brazil, and her first album, which featuring many of the musicians on this release, earned her the "best singer" title from the Associação Paulista dos Críticos de Arte, the art critics' association of the Brazilian press.

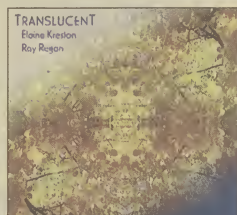
*Iaiá* is sure to win legions of instant converts. The songs, which range from infectious sambas to two which invoke the Goddess of the River and Goddess of the Sea of Brazil's African-rooted spiritualism, are communicated with a hard-to-resist, relaxed warmth and openness of spirit. Musical accompaniment plays a key role, with arrangements of understated brilliance. Listen to the clarinets bubble away with laughter in "Cidade Lagoa," a samba popularized in the '60s by Moreira da Silva that jokes about the floods in



Rio de Janeiro, André Mehmari's imaginative piano obbligato in "Sinhazinha (Despertar)," and the gentle moans of the sax in "É Doce Morrer No Mar." This is a feel-good disc to play over and over.

**Translucent** - Elaine Kreston & Ray Regan ([elainekeston.com](http://elainekeston.com))

The music is gentle and meditative. Its expansive soundscapes, reminiscent of classic space music, softly explore the more reclusive aspects of human consciousness. Featuring the cello of Elaine Kreston, whose journeys through classical chamber performance, New Music, Broadway, and experimental realms have led her from Boston to Berkeley, the disc also draws on the multidimensional



talents of co-composer Ray Regan, whose artworks, soundworks and video bridge the natural and digital dimensions.

Regan's guitars, mandolin, banjo, keyboards, samples, percussion, agavator, and didjeridu bathe Kreston's cello in radiant, soft-hued light. While the compositions, which exploit the cello's natural sound, lean toward the ruminative, they also celebrate the power of mind and music to incorporate the blessed peace of higher planes into the less-than-certain realities of our 21st-century realm. It's a mellow trip, free from strife save for a mild case of digital stridency that denies Kreston's instrument the natural richness it deserves. Lovely stuff. ▼



# Meat rack

'The Green Butchers' slaughterhouse is a dark Danish comedy

by David Lamble

Can you imagine anything worse than being stuck up your own ass? The speaker of this juicy bit of dialogue has sausage rather than sex on his brain. In fact, *The Green Butchers*, a new Danish comedy that is so black that it's more a very wicked fairy tale than a laugh-out-loud comedy of any color, is possibly the most meat-obsessed movie of the new millennium.

The plot may sound familiar. It should. Paul Bartel and Richard Blackburn used it to great advantage in their 1983 black comedy *Eating Raoul*. Bartel played a food snob whose dream was to start a gourmet restaurant with his (real-life) wife, Mary Woronov. Lacking the dough, Paul and Mary Bland stumble upon a sure-fire buck-raiser when they accidentally do away with a boorish swinger who flirted with Mary. The cadaver winds up in the restaurant's pot, and the dish is a sensation. *Eating Raoul* mocked the Blands' food fanaticism along with their strong aversion to sex.

In *The Green Butchers*, the Blands turn into hapless Danish buddies whose misfit lives are made a misery by their sausage-bulky of a boss. Striking out on



Bjarne (Nikolaj Lie Kaas) and Svend (Mads Mikkelsen) use their meat-locker as a trap for humans on the hoof.

their own, Svend (Mads Mikkelsen) and Bjarne (Nikolaj Lie Kaas) have two things in common: they work with dead meat, and they have practically no

friends in their tiny community of carnivores. Truth be told, the whiny Svend and the pot-smoking loner Bjarne can barely tolerate each other's company, especially

after one of them acquires or loses a girlfriend.

A plot that Hollywood would consign to the horror category takes a very weird twist when Bjarne recalls that he has a comatose twin brother vegging away in a country sanitarium. Bjarne asks the supervisory nurse to pull the plug on brother Eigil (also played by Kaas, with long hair, a crazed look and a stuffed giraffe). Just as they are about to give his organs away, Eigil wakes up, returning to the village to make Bjarne's life more miserable than it already is.

Bjarne is getting upset at every human that Svend traps: the shop's

electrician, a real-estate agent, and an ex-girlfriend. They use their meat-locker like a roach motel, turning human flesh into their popular dish, "chickie wickie."

## Something rotten

In the hands of Tarantino, *The Green Butchers* would soar or bottom out as a sword-opera movie. Writer/director Anders Thomas Jensen shuns genre tomfoolery. After all, he inhabits a culture that is its own wacky genre. The film is a more intriguing ride if you laugh, or at least chuckle, through its increasingly bizarre subplots, including one featuring an elderly gentleman who survives a mountain plane-crash by noshing on his dead wife. Otherwise, you may wonder about a town with apparently no police and no interest in its missing persons, and where even the local meat-inspectors are slow to pick up on the fact that there is something very rotten in this state of Denmark.

Jensen is a prolific writer of comedy scripts for other Danish directors; a precursor to *Butchers* was *In China, They Eat Dogs*. Fans of *Wilbur Wants To Kill Himself* will probably dig *Butchers*. Jensen says he's made an allegory about the high price people will pay to be loved or thought successful. The lanky Mikkelsen turns Svend into a prickly loser who hopes his role as a serial-killing gourmet will make him popular with the ladies, despite such conversation-stopping one-liners as, "My marinade may need some work, but don't disparage my meatballs."

Kaas, as nimble as Nicolas Cage in playing scenes opposite himself, is a potential celluloid hottie, but instead opts for the asexual-but-oddly-charismatic zone once home to *Star Trek*'s Dr. Spock. *Opens Friday.* ▼

# Jumping-off point

by Jenni Olson

[The following is an excerpt from the script for *The Joy of Life*, a film by Jenni Olson.]

There have been many philosophical and poetic speculations about the unique lure of the Golden Gate Bridge as a suicide spot. Most evoke the image of the bridge as a stepping-off point for disillusioned individuals who came West to California looking for something they never found.

There are endless attempts to analyze statistics, identify trends, draw conclusions. Everyone wants to understand, explain, find a reason, dwell on the gruesome details.

The most gruesome detail of all is that more than 1,300 people have ended their lives by jumping off this monumental structure.

My friend Mark was one of them.

In the decade since Mark's death, I have alternately avoided the bridge and felt compelled to discover more about it.

Living in San Francisco, the Golden Gate Bridge for me is a ubiquitous reminder of what's best and worst in this world. On the one hand, it stands as a triumph of engineering and spectacular Art Deco design. On the other hand, it's a terrifying, almost apocalyptic structure, a manmade steel cliff that serves as a virtual end of the Earth for the desperate souls wanting to leave this world with a flourish. Or, as Jack Kerouac more poetically phrased it, "Ole' Frisco, with end-of-land sadness."

Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* was one of my friend Mark's favorite movies. He once drove me down to Fort Point, under the bridge, to show me the spot where Kim



More than 1,300 people have ended their lives by jumping off this bridge.

Novak's Madeleine jumped into the Bay; where Jimmy Stewart's Scottie pulled her out.

Hitchcock actually shot most of the scene on a studio lot, and installed a convenient concrete stairway up to the seawall (which doesn't really exist at Fort Point) so Scottie could suavely walk up the steps carrying Madeleine's limp, water-soaked body back to the car. Anyone who's ever been down there knows it would be pretty difficult to successfully kill yourself jumping off the edge of the Fort Point parking lot into the Bay—it's maybe 10 feet down to the water.

There are times when you notice things, when you're acutely aware of the world around you. Like after someone dies. Or sometimes coming out of a movie. ▼

**Mark Finch, former Director of the San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, committed suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge on January 14, 1995.**

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# Rocky road ahead

## 2005 full of pitfalls . . . and promise

by Mister Marcus

Here it is 2005 and the year of the Cock stretches ahead with all sorts of events headed your way. Certain developments have taken place, and caution is the watchword for the day. Using common sense should be foremost on your agenda.

### Losses

The leather nation's euphoria over happy holidays and an optimistic outlook for the new year was overcast with grief over the loss of Patrick Chees in Dallas and Billy Collison in Washington, D.C. Both men commanded respect and appreciation for all the uplifting things they did while they were with us.

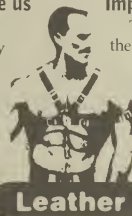
Patrick was the youthful "star" of the Dallas leather community, and Billy's reputation in the D.C. Metro area was sterling indeed. Both men contributed to their communities, and visitors to either Dallas or Washington were always delighted to meet up with both Patrick and Billy. They had ready smiles and positive attitudes, and were hard workers filled with leather pride. Both were imbued with "manners and respect," and only a few minutes of conversation with either of them made you feel at home, as if you'd known them for years.

Our community grieves with the families and friends of both these dynamic men. Let it be known that both men have a special place in all our hearts and will never be forgotten.

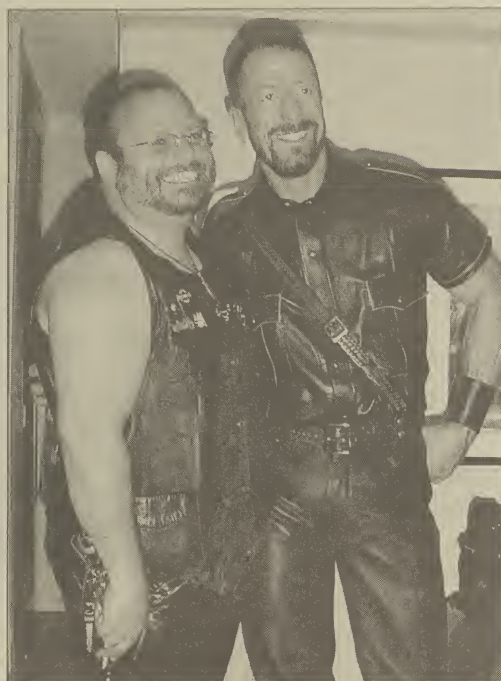
### Why don't they leave us alone?

It's a sad commentary on the moral values in this country. Now another scam surfaces and, for some unknown reason, leather people are again the targets. Be on the alert. Several people have had this happen to them already:

A telephone caller may call you in the early evening hours identifying himself as an AT&T Service Technician who is conducting a test on your telephone lines. You are advised that to complete the test, you should touch the number nine (9) and then zero (0), then the pound sign (#) and then hang up. Local telephone officials advise that if you punch in those three numbers, you are giving the caller full access to your telephone line which enables him/her to place long distance calls billed to your home phone number. These scams are



Leather



The late Billy Collison, left, is shown here with MAL 04 "Tug" Taylor after Tug's victory in the contest last year. Billy passed over early last week of a heart attack and is sorely missed in all leather circles.

allegedly originating from local jails/prisons according to UCB, Pacific Bell, MCI, Bell Atlantic and GTE. Stay alert. Do not press 90# for anyone!

### Important deadline

Tomorrow, January 14th is the deadline to be a beneficiary of the 2005 Folsom Street and the Up Your Alley Fairs. Don't linger. Application forms are available at [www.folsom-streetfair.com](http://www.folsom-streetfair.com). If you have questions, contact Darryl Flick at 415-861-3247.

### Bare Chest Calendar schedule

The dates of contests for the 2006 SOMA Bare Chest Calendar contests were announced last week. If you are thinking of competing, know that all the contests are on Thursdays at the Powerhouse. The contests are: January 20 and 27; Feb. 3, 17 and 24; March 3, 17, 24 and 31; April 7th. The final contests are on April 21 and 28 when the winners will be chosen & announced. To find out more, click on: [www.somabarechestcalendar.org](http://www.somabarechestcalendar.org).

### Conduct unbecoming

Leather people from coast to coast are up in arms about the decision of the producer of the Mr. Leather Colorado title to strip David Barrett of his title because he participated in porno movies! Now let's be honest. Besides all the fundraising and beneficial projects leather people and leather titleholders do, underneath it all is a sexuality that cannot be denied. The porn industry, gay and straight, is a billion-dollar business in this country and I daresay only the most prudish among us would deny a man his title just because he chose to indulge in the industry.

Besides it being a dastardly decision, David was never advised that he was losing the title and only learned about it in a published column in one of Denver's local rags. Tsk Tsk, and my, my, what prudes these mortals be! As far as the entire IML Class of 2004 is concerned, including the judges, David Barrett is still Mr. Leather Colorado and the Denver leather community again stands in low esteem because 1 or 2 individuals are "Unclear on the Concept". It used to be "conduct unbecoming

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, January 13-16

Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend in Washington, D.C., Sun Bears Weekend in San Diego.

### Friday, January 14

Mr. Oil Can Harry's leather contest at that bar in Studio City, CA. and Women's Play Party at the MAL weekend in D.C.

Saturday, January 15: Alameda County Leather Corps' annual "Leather Elegance" dinner at Ello's Restaurant. For info, call: 510-798-7273.

### Friday, January 21

Exiles of SF monthly gathering at the Women's Bldg. features Silva Tenenbein expounding on "Gentil torture". Lousy parking.

### Saturday, January 22

SF-Defenders celebrate their 11th anniversary tonight at the Eagle Tavern from 1800 to 2100. Admission is by club overlay or invitation in hand. Congratulations!

Mr. Los Angeles Leather Bear contest at the Faultline Bar tonight. No details, but this will be the 2nd of 10 on the road to the Mr. Los Angeles Leather title in March.

### Weekend, January 28-30

Mr. Chicago Leather Contest at the Touché Bar in the Windy City;

Flesh & Fantasy weekend in Dallas;  
Mr. Padlock Leather contest in Phoenix;  
Ms. Colorado Leather Contest at the Triangle Bar tonight.



# A royal agenda

by Sweet Lips

The 14th Annual Portland Party, *An Affair to Remember*, takes place on Saturday, February 19, from Noon to 2 p.m. at Ginger's Trois, 246 Kearny St. It's a fundraiser for the Rose Court Scholarship Fund. The event, which includes the crowning of the Emperor and Empress of Alcatraz, is hosted by Emperor Steve Rasher and is always hilarious, especially with Mame doing her craziness. Long ago, I was the Empress and Dolly Dale was the Emperor for a year. Those were my glory days! Yes, I'll be at Ginger's for the event, so do come by and say hello.

That Saturday, Feb. 19, the Imperial Court of San Francisco will present *Coronation 2005 - 39 Years of History and Tradition, An Impe-*

rial Family Celebration. The Ball starts at 6 p.m., and doors open at 5 p.m. at the Gift Center Pavilion, 888 Brannan St. The Imperial Court now has about 67 chapters across the US, Canada and Mexico. This event was started by Empress José, one of the great ones.

Well, it appears that Paul and David have signed a lease for the new Club Rendez-Vous. It will be on the Southeast corner of Fern and Polk, just down the block from the old location. Construction will start when the permits are issued, and knowing these guys, it will probably take a few months, so be patient.

Had a nice letter from Johnny Kehr aka Virginia. Old-timers will

remember him from the Gangway. He is now living in Ohio.

Dick Deemer will be celebrating his birthday in Puerto Vallarta on January 23 ... sorry I can't be there this year! Happy birthday, Dick!

Also, belated birthday greetings to Bob Golovich on January 5. He's still remembered for publishing *The Sentinel* way back in the early '80s.

Hey, Eddie Bellpepper, I made a slight boo-boo in my last column. Max, formerly of the Cinch, is now tending bar at the Badlands in Palm Springs, Sunday through Wednesday, and is as popular as he was here in SF.

That's all for now. See you again in two weeks! ▼



## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

a title holder", but in Denver, it's "conduct unbecoming a title holder producer". How sad!

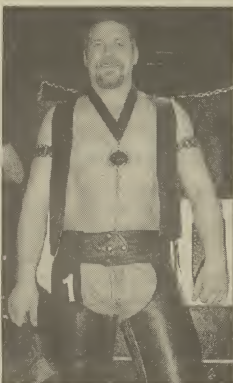
### Queer Eyes for Toronto

When David Kloss was chosen the first-ever International Mr. Leather, he was an engineer on off-shore oil rigs around the world; he retired a few years ago and moved to Toronto, Canada to be with the love of his life, Remi Collette. A few months ago, they decided to renovate their condo without any professional designer help. Friends were delighted with the results and a 3-page photo spread in the Toronto Star appeared. A woman friend, after seeing the results of their efforts advised them to go into the business of designing and/or re-designing condos.

As of now, David and Remi have established RedDefining Space, Inc., a registered Ontario corporation and their first project is a \$120,000 renovation in downtown Toronto. Success, We love success! Could there be a TV show offer for the Canadian version of "Queer Eye for Your Old Sty"?

### First "biggie" of 2005

This weekend, the first big leather event will take place in Washington, DC at the Centaur MC's "Leather Weekend" with lots of activities on the agenda. At least a dozen or more members of the IML Class of 2005 will be on hand to hear the announcement of the IML 2005 judges; there will be a play party for women only; private and public parties will prevail and Tug Taylor will pass the sash to a successor. Hopefully, the weather will be decent, but remember, it is January, so bring appropriate and warm clothing. ▼



Ray "Cody" Haugland was chosen Mr. Gauntlet II Leather2005 at that world-famous bar last Saturday, January 8. He advances to compete for the Mr. L.A. Leather title in March.

## Shelley Winters

◀ page 29

the Way, but refused *Little Egypt*, earning a reputation as "difficult." Told to *Behave Yourself*, she faced *The Raging Tide* before answering a *Phone Call from a Stranger* ('52), fine as a cheerful showgirl. But she had to *Meet Danny Wilson* (Frank Sinatra), move to the *Untamed Frontier*, and be a drunken wife in *My Man and I*.

Having divorced her first husband, Winters wed Italian actor Vittorio Gassman in '52. She was effective as a mistress/secretary working in the fine, all-star *Executive Suite* ('54), followed by *Tennessee Champ*, *Saskatchewan*, *Playgirl*, *To Dorothy and A Son*, before dancing the *Mambo* ('55), an Italian flop with Gassman. She was good as deranged preacher Robert Mitchum's murdered wife in Charles Laughton's terrifying, unsuccessful *Night of the Hunter*, and excelled in two supporting roles: *I Am a Camera* and especially as the blonde starlet in *The Big Knife*, dying again. But leads in *I Died a Thousand Times* and *The Treasure of Pancho Villa* hurt her.

### Rain fall

On Broadway, she met third husband Anthony Franciosa catching *A Hatful of Rain*, before Stevens gave her Mrs. Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank* ('59), winning the Best Supporting Actress Oscar. She scored in *Odds Against Tomorrow* as killer/thief Robert Ryan's wife, then played wayward moth-

ers in *Let No Man Write My Epitaph* ('60) and *The Young Savages* ('61), with Burt Lancaster. As pretentious Charlotte Haze, *Lolita* ('62) mother, she was incisive, funny, and again dying. For Cukor's *Chapman Report*, she made promiscuity interesting, then replaced Bette Davis on Broadway in Tennessee Williams' *Night of the Iguana*, to good notices.

Her madame in the ill-conceived version of Jean Genet's *The Balcony* ('63) failed, but she stole *Wives and Lovers* from Van Johnson and Janet Leigh, then was Rod Steiger's ex-mistress in *Gli Indifferenti* ('64). As Polly Adler, whose *House Is Not a Home*, she reveled in a campy mess. She atoned with a cameo in Stevens' dull *The Greatest Story Ever Told* ('65) about Jesus, then triumphed as a slutty mother whose blind daughter finds *A Patch of Blue* with Sidney Poitier, winning another supporting Oscar. As an ex-child star opposite Paul Newman's terrific *Harper* ('66) she was hilarious. She shone as a matron hot for Michael Caine's *Alfie* before playing a robust Jewish mother in *Enter Laughing* ('67). In *The Scalphunters* ('68), she preferred Indians to white men.

She ran *Wild in the Streets*, as the mother of the first American 'Youth' President, a poor satire, and was good in a cameo in *Buona Serra*, Mrs. Campbell, before visiting the *Mad Room* ('69), as a coarse widow. As Jackie Gleason's mistress, she wondered *How Do I Love Thee?* ('70), played Ma Barker in Roger Corman's deliri-

ous *Bloody Mama*, essayed another hooker comforting Anthony Quinn's *The Last Warrior*, then followed with camp classics, *What's the Matter with Helen?* and *Who Slew Auntie Roo?* ('71). She was sympathetic in *The Poseidon Adventure* ('73), dying so others could survive, earning an Oscar nod. Peter Finch murdered her in *Something to Hide*, and she had a fine cameo in *Blume in Love* before playing a drug dealer facing Tamara Dobson's *Cleopatra Jones*.

Most subsequent movies were poor and unseen. A superb exception was *Next Stop Greenwich Village* ('76), a poignant comedy about an aspiring actor — her possessive mother was hilarious and got her another Oscar nomination. Her sleazy agent in Blake Edwards' *S.O.B.* ('82) was good if brief, but she did nothing noteworthy until *Delta Force* ('86), as a passenger on a hijacked plane rescued by Charles Bronson. On television, she played *Roseanne's* grandmother. She and Patricia Neal were sisters accepting an *Unremarkable Life* ('89), and she did well as Liza Minnelli's accompanist in *Stepping Out* ('91). In Jane Campion's *Portrait of a Lady* ('96), she played John Gielgud's wife, a "marriage" only imaginable in movies.

Her last (unseen) films were made in '99, and she is reportedly in poor health, living in Southern California. Her career is a mixture of daring, misjudgments, and incisive portraits of lower-class, bruised women. She became her era's best-known character actress, no mean achievement. ▼

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# Bitter fruit

## Russians out on disc

by Tim Pfaff

Composer symphony cycles rarely appear sequentially, and there may be no more significance to the appearance now of Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony in Valery Gergiev's ongoing cycle for Philips than there is in any other such project. Still, the timing is uncanny.

Shostakovich withdrew the symphony when it was already in rehearsal in Leningrad in 1936, but probably not out of dissatisfaction with the work. He was on a roll, with his opera *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* in the second year of a successful run when Stalin attended a performance and fumed; the Soviet press took marching orders by depicting his new ballet, *The Limpid Stream*. The full score was lost, probably in the siege of Leningrad (memorialized in the last Shostakovich symphony Gergiev has recorded, the Seventh), reconstructed from a two-piano version and the orchestral parts, and finally given an enthusiastically received premiere by Kirill Kondrashin in 1961.

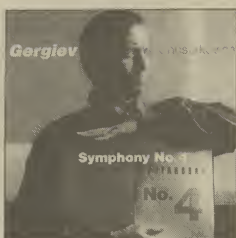
Still, this Fourth (the symphony that marked the beginning of Soviet suppression of the "pure music" the composer later commented he wanted to write) comes at a time when things are looking chillier than an ordinary

January in Moscow. As the new Bush Cabinet gets rubber-stamped, one can only hope that Rice the one-time Sovietologist has one eye — ideally not the one behind the helmet hair — on the goings-on in Putin's Kremlin.

While we don't know whether the State Department will really be in her hands, there can be no doubt that Shostakovich's Fourth is in the right ones here. The symphony, which opens with a woodwind shriek promptly followed by a march of almost absurd banality, gets a knock-out performance throughout by Gergiev's Kirov Orchestra.

For the most part, the score goes down like a porcupine swallowed backwards, and there's no better band for bristle and bite than the Kirov. Important as it is, this score hardly figures among the composer's greatest symphonies, but at least while the CD is spinning, you think you're hearing the world's greatest orchestra playing music of real genius.

Whatever else is true, there's not a slack moment in this gristly, fitful score (annotator Andrew Huth rightly calls it "unruly"). There's no great, transcendent Adagio from the composer who became a master of them; but in other ways, his debt to Mahler is in full evidence, most notably in the positioning of a sardonic scherzo (*Moderato con moto*) between two colossal outer move-



ments. The climaxes are, in a certain way, also Mahlerian, building to literally shattering climaxes, when the music really does seem to collapse under its own volume.

There's a devil driving the Presto, which segues from hounds-at-your-heels chase (terrifying percussion here) to an almost sickeningly surreal dance sequence. This is lurid, sardonic, often bitter music that holds your attention like a catastrophe. While it has form, it seldom feels that it does, staying close to the edge. Even the perky scherzo turns queasy.

The somber bassoon solo that opens the Largo sounds seasick. You feel the effort it takes to generate its heartthrob climaxes. It wants to lift off, but the gravity is simply too great. There's one more long surge of energy, but any attempt at triumph vanishes in a

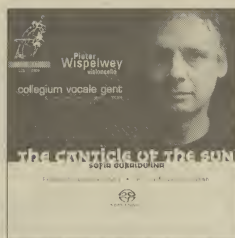
long, poignant sigh of resignation. You may feel beaten — but by the best of them.

### Difficult listening

Gergiev has long championed the music of Sofia Gubaidulina, the mystic composer who spent her Soviet years in isolation in Moscow. She's finally getting the audience she deserves for her singular music.

Her latest advocate on CD is cellist Pieter Wispelwey, who is at the center of three major Gubaidulina compositions on *The Canticle of the Sun* (Channell Classics). A player of astonishing range and depth, he is ideal for the composer's work, which he plays with authority and depth.

The CD's two Soviet-period works are five of the 1974 *Preludes for Solo Cello*, the precise character of each Wispelwey grasps and communicates. The 1979 *In Croce* exists in arrangements for cello and organ or bayan (Russian accordion), and this one fortunately



features An Raskin on the latter. Over a quarter-hour, the two instruments make the sign of the cross by approaching each other from the cello's ascending low register and the bayan's descending higher one. Their meeting begins a rapturous meditation.

The title work from '97 (composed for Mstislav Rostropovich for his 70th birthday) sheds the constriction of the Soviet-era works for the elevation of Gubaidulina's setting of St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle for solo cello* (astonishing Wispelwey), chorus (the superb Collegium Vocale Gent), limited percussion and celeste (members of the Prometheus Ensemble). Its 19 continuous movements span 40 minutes of unbroken solemnity. Gubaidulina finds the exact sounds for praise of the divine. ▼

## Tony Kushner

◀ Arts cover

theater work Kushner has ever written, with the mostly sung libretto (music by Jeanine Tesori) rooted on his complicated childhood relationship with the black family maid in the early 1960s in Lake Charles, La.

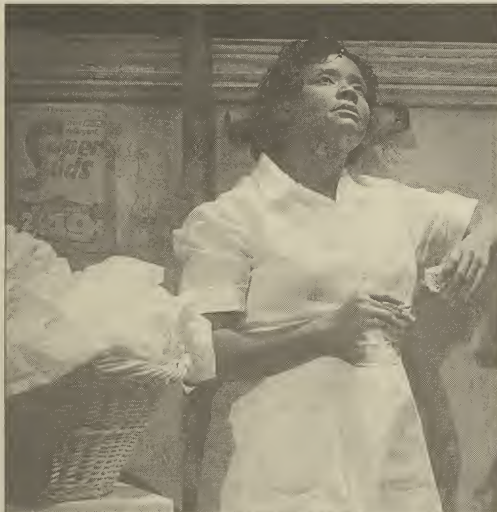
It's something of the flipside of *Driving Miss Daisy*, though both works are set in the South and deal with an African American working for a Jewish family. Kushner's Caroline is an angry woman who wants nothing personally to do with her employers, and especially not the 9-year-old boy who worships her.

Kushner's personal passion for the show propelled him to work the phones in order to assemble a consortium of producers to finance a transfer to Broadway from the Public Theatre. It was a job made more difficult by Brantley's tepid *Times* review and the fact that Kushner pretty much assured the investors that they would lose their money.

"I felt there were a lot of people who loved the show and were interested in being part of a community of producers," Kushner said. "Nobody wanted to underwrite the whole thing because there was no real likelihood that anybody was going to get their money back. I was in a position to make sure that the fact that the chief drama critic of *The New York Times* didn't love it wasn't going to make everyone shrug and say, 'Well, this is one of those that just didn't happen.' I have no ambition for everything I write to be on Broadway, but I felt very strongly that this was a show that needed to move."

### SF bound

One member of that community of producers who was on-board from the start was Carole Shorenstein Hays, of the SF Best of Broadway series, and that connection means San Francisco is one of only two cities to see the show as done on Broadway last year. Most of the original cast is back, including Tonya Pinkins in the title role and Anika Noni Rose as Caroline's teenage daughter in their acclaimed performances. George C. Wolfe, who directed



Tonya Pinkins plays the title role in *Caroline, or Change*, opening in SF.

*Angels in America* in its Broadway production (after its premiere in San Francisco), also put *Caroline* on stage.

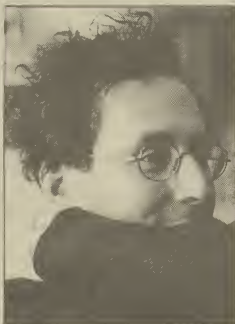
Kushner originally wrote the libretto under a commission from the San Francisco Opera, and the plan was for Bobby McFerrin to write the music for a contemporary opera. "When that didn't work out, I got the rights back, and asked George Wolfe if he would direct it as a musical," Kushner said. "We both thought Jeanine Tesori would be the perfect person to do the music." After an original rejection and some

concerted coaxing, the composer of *Violet* agreed to put Kushner's words to music.

What prompted Kushner to decide that for the first time his words should sing? "It's a very sad story in some ways, and it gets into some very dark emotions," he said. "I think there is a way that music reaches people both in joy or sorrow that isn't casual or rational or Euclidean. It's been a really eye-opening experience working in this form because, while people cry while when they are watching *Angels in America*, I've never seen an audience lose it the way people do at *Caroline*."

Surprisingly, this softer side of the politically charged playwright brought some unusual brickbats. Michael Reidel, an entertainment writer for *The New York Post*, regularly mocked the show and ridiculed Kushner's efforts to get it to Broadway. In one column, he admits to trying to stir up a backlash against a show he likened to castor oil.

"Michael Reidel is a proudly self-proclaimed conservative columnist in a reactionary paper, so it's hardly surprising that he would hate me," Kushner said. "He's a big trouble-maker in New



Kushner is proudest of *Caroline*.

next page ►

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## ARTS

## Out There

◀ page 26

out, they did not see each other for some time. Then Shelley was a guest on a talk show and was shocked to learn that he was scheduled to be on as well. She feared he might be indiscreet.

Holden walked out on stage whistling "Jingle Bells," smiled at her, but said nothing. What a gent! Take a lesson, boys.

## Trock stop

International dance phenom **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**, better known as the Trocks, will make a rare Bay Area appearance at Marin Center in San Rafael, on Sun., Jan. 16, promptly at 3 p.m.

The all-male ballet troupe includes such drag prima ballerinas as **Ida Nevasayeva**, **Fifi Barkova** and **Marguex Mundeyn**. So if your local dancewear store runs out of pointe shoes in size 15, you'll know why. Tickets (\$28-\$45); call (415) 499-6800, or go to ticketmaster.com.

And just to finish things off on an appropriately zesty note, and since we're thrilled it's the year of the cock, we know Out There readers will enjoy this **Bruce**



Swimming under the influence.

Weber photo of Olympic medal-winner/DUI case **Michael Phelps** from the January issue of *Vanity Fair*. We didn't know Mikey had a tattoo of the Olympic rings under his Speedo, but now we do. Perhaps VF's photo caption says it all: "Best Stroke." Um-hm. ▼

## Tony Kushner

◀ previous page

York."

Even more ranking was *Chicago Sun-Times* critic Hedy Weiss' description of Kushner as a "classic self-loathing Jew" in her review of *Caroline*. He demanded an apology, and the newspaper gave him a chance to reply in print to Weiss' "vicious ad hominem attack."

"It is appalling that a playwright can be flatly accused of hating his own people without a single word cited from the play in question," Kushner wrote in part. "My anger at this critic and her editors for accusing me of hatred of Jewish people exceeds my abilities to express it."

During the interview, he elaborated on the source of Weiss' animosity. "I am convinced that its origin is in her intense distaste for my political positions regarding the state of Israel. Her views on Israel are completely right-wing."

Of course, Kushner, a gay so-

cialist with a swashbuckling dramatic flair, is no stranger to controversy. "There are unbelievably vicious things about *Angels in America* that were written from the beginning, mostly from right-wing assholes, but also from people on the left. My work is overtly political, and I'm very partisan in my politics, so I guess I irritate people in some way."

"Last year was a hard year if you didn't like me. The film of *Angels in America* came out, I published three books, *Homebody/Kabul* returned to New York, and I wrote my first musical, which opened to a considerable degree of acclaim and controversy. If you were hoping that I had just vanished from the Earth after *Angels in America*, then you were in for an unpleasant year." ▼

**Caroline, or Change** will run Jan. 14-Feb. 20 at the Curran Theatre. Tickets are \$45-\$90. Call 512-7770 or go to [bestofbroadway-sf.com](http://bestofbroadway-sf.com).

## World music

◀ page 30

seven additional Grammy nominations, the latest being 2004.

Now they team up with the strings of the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Ralf Gothoni for a gorgeous, soulful excursion that mixes original compositions by group founder Joseph Shabalala and album arranger Isak Roux with classics by Mozart, Schubert, and Bach. As improbable as this may sound, the

project's precedent was the boundary-breaking Shabalala/Simon's arrangement of "Amazing Grace" that initially catapulted them to fame.

Heard here in orchestrated form, "Amazing Grace" joins a beautiful "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," a curious, gospel-like "Ave Verum Corpus," and a Zulified Schubert Sanctus, melding faith and spirit in performances that smack less of crossover than of heart fire. The group performs in Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall on February 3. ▼

## Best Erotica

◀ page 31

American orgasmic ruminations of Nelson George in "It's Never Too Late in New York" to Jane Smiley's excerpt from her novel *Good Faith* that is more a love letter to snowfall in Manhattan than to any act involving sex. Lisa Montanelli has a humorous interaction with a dildo named "The Boss," and prolific writer Simon Sheppard surrenders to some authoritarian, sadistic voicemail in

"After the Beep."

In the introduction, the editor offers a comical bit of personal history about her days as an XXX video reviewer, and the sensory overload she endured as procrastinated deadlines hovered. Bright outdoes herself yet again with these 25 selections: every one intelligent, tasteful, and libidinally nutritious.

Susie Bright will read from and discuss *The Best American Erotica 2005* on Thursday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Books, Inc., 2257 Market Street, SE. ▼

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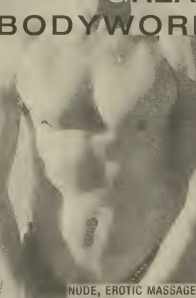
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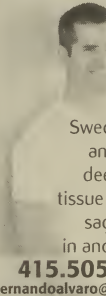
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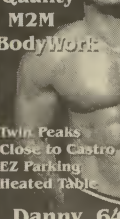
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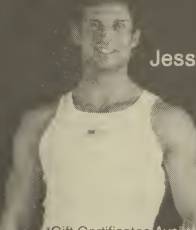
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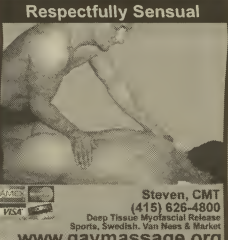
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**BOLD** Stops Here ▼

**CAPS** Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

## DEADLINE

**NOON on MONDAY.**  
Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
telephone. If you have a  
question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

## RATES

First line, Regular 4.50  
All subsequent lines 3.00  
CAPS double price  
**BOLD** double price  
**X-BOLD** triple price

## PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Personal Check  
☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge  
on Visa and MasterCard.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

3-Digit Security Code

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

**MAIL WITH  
PAYMENT TO:**  
BAY AREA  
REPORTER

395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

**OR FAX TO:**  
415.861.8144



## MODELS/ESCORTS



**BRITISH LAD**  
NEW TO THE CITY. NEW TO THE MEN

25 YEARS OLD. CENTRAL LOCATION  
FIT, RESPONSIVE, INTELLIGENT  
BEN 415.368.6231 In/Out



**JAMES**  
In/Out  
24/7  
2<sup>ND</sup> HOTTIE  
AVAILABLE  
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Help us find out if HIV superinfection is a real concern for the positive community.

**HIV +/- partners... Receive FREE drug resistance testing & \$70 each in this important UCSF study.**

**CALL TODAY!**  
(415) 734-4878




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**HEAVY RAUNCH FF W/S**  
Scat • Verbal Abuse, 5'8 Hair 165  
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8" Party Stud/Ken/346-4966/\$60

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**LUKE**  
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REAL PHOTO • BLONDE, BLUE,  
22y.o. 8.5 THICK  
In/Out • 24 / 7

**Tom BuStone**



Handsomeness • Hairy • 6' • 160  
**Super Hung Total Top**  
Reliable Professional Trustworthy Discreet Safe  
Vanilla Kink Domination Role Play Massage  
Demand Quality  
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Calls returned in 5 minutes  
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**Black Male**  
415.240.5330  
6'3", 230, 46C 33W, 17A.  
Make your fantasy cum true.  
Available for Muscle Worship,  
Erotic Massage & Much More.  
Straight/Married - MARC

**ASIAN TOP**  
\$80/\$100 • JIM 269-5707

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6-1, 177#, vgl, 9 inch cut  
Page 650-523-9133, and massage

**AFFECTION STUD**  
28 GWM 6' 190lbs 32wst Big Legs  
7" cut Hot BubbleButt Clean-cut  
Masculine Versatile In/Out 24/7  
PAGE ME (415) 227-7727

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6'1", 175#, VGL stud, 32 yo, muscled.  
Call Jeff at 1-888-699-2325

**MUSCLE S&M TOP**  
Farmer, 6', 32 yo, well hung. Call  
Brad @ 415-596-4184 SF calls only.

**LEATHER TOP!**  
Light to heavy sensual SM  
handsome experienced w/dungeon  
TOM 415-487-1296

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**LEE MICHAELS**  
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In/Out  
6'3" 190 35  
Handsome Boyish Sexy Versatile Nice Guy  
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6' • 188# OF  
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MOST SCENES  
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24 hrs (415) 775-4771

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Friendly Vers. 415 929-9224 Mike

**HARD & BIG**  
Experienced Top, Well Endowed  
Will Make You Happy!  
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24/7 Safe Play And/Or Nude  
Erotic Massage. In And Out  
5' 7" 130Lbs 8Cut 25Y0 Versatile  
415 336-4188  
Domingo

**EUROPEAN PORN-MODEL**  
5'9", 210#, 10X6, 36yo, top/bottom,  
bodybuilder, Out, 24/7  
(415) 239-6916,  
(415) 225-8827. Antony.

Mike, 39, 5'10", 190#, Bl/Blu  
Clean-cut, Muscle Hung  
In/Out \$100,  
(415) 863-8932

**ASIAN CUTE BOY**  
25 Smooth In Shape Bottom Nice  
Nude Massage Safe Downtown SF  
Free Parking  
415 368-4628.

24y/o Bottom Jason 415-210-1526  
**HOT BLONDE BOY**

**MEN'S FITNESS MODEL**  
You'll remember my TV ads for  
Gillette Sensor "The Best A Man Can  
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9.5X7 Cut Avail.  
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6'3" 250#, Furry Muscle  
**BIKER TOP**  
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**STR8 HOT LOAD!!!**  
5'9" Bl/Bl Gorgeous  
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**HUNG 9X7 UC TOP**  
6'2, 165# SWIMMERS BUILD  
240-9986 DAVID

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-LONG & SLOW-  
MY SPECIALTY  
6'3", 185# Top  
From Mild to Wild.  
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Call Jay  
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to Pigs  
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9"x6"  
40yo  
6'2"  
155#  
HUNG  
TOP

Spank U Very Much-Ab-Fab Butt-  
Play • Asian • Equation's Back  
573-5696

22, Cute, Smooth, 6'2", 165, Brn/Hz.  
Sensual, Masculine,  
410-4105 Out

**10X6 IN 2005!**  
D\*\*K BEYOND BELIEF!  
6'1" 170#, BR/GR, LEAN, TAN  
38Yo, Italian Vers/Top Guy  
SCOTT 252.8552

Hot+ Masculine w/Buzzcut & Goatee  
Handsome 6ft. Well-Hung, Big Balls  
**SHAVED HEAD STUD**

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www.geocities.com/Swingonmy-  
things/photopage.html

Thomasescort.com 415/336-8135  
**NINEHARDINCHES**

**BOYISHLY CUTE!**  
AFFECTIONATE, PASSIONATE  
FRIENDLY, CLEAN, KISSABLE  
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No STD's, No Drugs, No Attitude!  
\$120 + Cab. Out Only. 415-871-4228.  
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN! • SEAN •

**100% TOP MAN**  
Hot Horny 6' Bln/Bl 10+  
Friendly Fun + Nasty  
Matt 415-845-8042 \$100 Out Only

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35, 5'10", 170 Lbs 8 Cut, Shaved Head  
W/Goatee, Thick Legs And Muscled Ass.  
Vers. Gary \$100-150  
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**EXPERT BLK TOP STUD**  
Ex-Tall 6'6" 240Lbs 38y/o, Smt  
Musc Build Ex-Sexy Very Goodkink  
And Totally Masculine. Ex-Hung  
True 10x7 Manf\*\*\*ker. Out Only.  
24 Hrs, late Nite Call OK. Call Robb  
At 240-0842 \$150.  
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**NINE HARD INCHES**

**WELL HUNG JERSEY BOY**  
23yo Whiteboy, Masc, Goodlooking,  
Lean/Toned Build 5'5" 130# Brn/  
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200\$  
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**PORN STAR**  
**IVAN ANDROS**  
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181cm/Var. Top  
20/5'10"  
200LBS OF MUSCLE  
Available 24/7  
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**RICARDO**  
25 yo, 5' 10", 175#  
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**Austin TX. Hottie**  
New to S.F.  
Call Richard 24 hrs.  
415.516.9381  
My place, your place & hotel  
Callers welcome!  
Actual model pictured.

**SEXY, HUNG TOP 8c**  
FRIENDLY PLAYFUL EROTIC  
No ATTITUDE  
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OUTCALLS ONLY

**Aaron 6'165/8"**  
24yo Massage & Escort in & out  
415 577 3920

**JERRIE**  
20 • ITALIAN & LATIN  
818-390-4873

**"SAN FRANCISCO'S TOP BLACK MALE ESCORT"**  
IN/OUT 6' 165# 9.5 X 6"  
RID  
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**LATINO**  
muscular  
x-fine  
genuinely handsome  
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**JEREMY 415.377.8938**  
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**COLE RAMSEY**  
29YO • 5'10" • 185#  
9X6 CUT  
HANDSOME • HUNG  
VERBAL • DOMINANT TOP  
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Discretion Assured!  
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**Sexy Latin Top**  
Boy 180# 9.5"  
Very Friendly  
Horny  
Tall  
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LEO  
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AGGRESSIVELY  
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COUPLES ALSO WELCOME  
RICK  
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707 869-9010 \$50 In

**HOT TOP GUN**  
Let A Smooth, Athletic, Sexy Young Man. Hit That Spot  
ICE 415 756-7714

**SOUTH BAY LATIN**  
36yr 6' 165# Masculine 100% Versatile 8x5 Uncut Well Built Nice Bud, Tattoo, Goatee, Will Travel In/Out Call Junior @ 408 607-5113

Hot, Bald, Laid Back, Versatile, Top, 44 Shows off Big, Thick, Cut Bone & Tattoos. Out Only Gary 596-8305 \$90 Fun, Safe.

**FULL SPECTRUM DOMINANCE**  
Blond Stripper- 6'2" 185. Top. All Kinky Leather Scenes. Boots. Strip Show. Nick @ 415-908-8606

Handsome Italian Top Hung 10x7!  
**CHOKE ON THIS!**  
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6'2"/160Lbs/Hung 7/Nice Guy/Hot  
415-596-0734 • **SHAWN • HORNY 21 YO WM HOT COLLEGE STUD**  
\$120/Hr. Outcalls Only

**10X7 BLK TOP**  
27 Hot & Always Hard Athletic Guy 415-724-4796 Jason 160 Out Only  
Domination BD CBT TT SM FF ...  
**RYKER LEATHER TOP**  
Muscular Built Handsome 6' 180# Playroom Toys 596-2737

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Slender Hung Fun  
Any Area 415-577-8846  
Travel Out Ok

Hot Yng Ath Blk 9"  
Out Only. Tevin \* 415-724-2704

Thomasescort.com 415-336-8135  
**HUNG BOTTOM**  
**PLOW MY FURRY HOLE!**

**NEW AFROCUBAN BOY**  
24/7 Safe Play And/Or Nude Erotic Massage. In And Out 5' 7" 130Lbs 8Cut 25YO Versatile 415 336-4188 Domingo

**EUROPEAN PORN-MODEL**  
5'9", 210#, 10X6, 36yo, top/bottom, bodybuilder, Out, 24/7 (415) 239-6916, (415) 225-8827. Antony.

Mike, 39, 5'10", 190#, Bl/Blu Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk In/Out \$100, (415) 863-8932

**LEATHER TOP!**  
Light to heavy sensual SM handsome experienced w/dungeon  
**TOM 415-487-1296**

**ARAB-AMERICAN FOOT-TOP**  
Worship my size 11s. Pics. avl. mymasterfulfeet@sbcglobal.net

**HEAVY RAUNCH FF W/S**  
Scat • Verbal Abuse, 5'8 Hairly 165 Muscle-Dad 9" Uncut 415-577-0406

8" Party Stud/Ken/346-4966/\$60

MISSY O!  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY CARL,  
THANKS FOR BEING  
SO DAMN WONDERFUL.  
LOVE, SEAN.



24yo Bottom Jason 415-210-1526  
**HOT BLONDE BOY**

Spank U Very Much-Ab-Fab Butt-Play • Asian • Equation's Back 573-5696

22, Cute, Smooth, 6'2", 165, Bn/Hz. Sensual, Masculine, 410-4105 Out

"Packing a Musket"  
When you work from your home And Johns call on the phone You're a call girl.  
When you walk 'til you limp And give a cut to a pimp You're a street whore.  
When they're beggin' you "please" Get that down on your knees Near their groinage "Excusa me!" But you see, don't you touch Where they pee Without coinage.  
When I straddle and squat to show you my...

**UNDERWEAR PARTY**  
Thursday, January 13  
\$3 FREE before 10 P.M.  
Benefits: P.A.M.S.  
Trade in your old underwear for a FREE drink!  
**WET Underwear contest at MIDNIGHT**  
\$100 First prize  
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**Hot Local Guys!** **MrN**

Bay Area's hottest chatline

**Men Meet Men Right Now!**  
Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!

Try it for  
**FREE**

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510-281-2400 650-649-2500 925-955-2000

## Who's Waiting for You?

### LIVE LOCAL MEN

San Francisco  
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408-257-4411  
925-426-5588  
650-223-0200  
510-859-2000

Other Local #'s  
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**FREE TRIAL**  
CODE: 2160

1-900-505-2323 (\$1.99/min) 18+

**interactive male**

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**Body BARBER**  
San Francisco's  
Premier Shaving Service

FROM BACKS & BALLS TO BUTTS & BEYOND

CALL FOR APPT. (415) 596-0195

Good Head in Sonoma County.  
Call Days  
707-823-3895

Hot Top seeks bottom boys  
GWM dark hair/eyes muscular hairy  
48 9" uncut. You: GW/Latin/Asian  
18-35 gl slim-come sit on it.  
415 552-8827.

Take it like a Slave!  
GWM, 60s, discipline-bondage guy  
seeks serious bottoms NE Bay or  
Delta, for whips, suspension, oral tit,  
cock play. Moe @ (951) 963-5369

**WANTED!**

**BAY AREA MEN**

- Live Talk
- Meet Ads
- Voice Mail

24 Hours  
\$2.00  
976-7500

**Free**  
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2ND FRI. EACH MONTH  
PRIVATE SESSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE  
415.864.2766

### OPERA & SYMPHONY LOVER?

GWM, high-tech professional, 52, HIV-, brn hair & eyes, 5'11" av build ISO fellow music aficionado in his 30's or 40's, HIV-, attractive, upbeat attitude & playful wit! Polite with good social skills, OUT and comfortable, compassionate & easy going. Our client is an Opera fan, loves the symphony, singing and Sunday New York Times. San Jose or San Francisco Bay Areas preferred. Visit [www.VXOPartners.com](http://www.VXOPartners.com) client ad 2738 (FREE)

# BAR TALK

**1.900.226.7036** Only \$1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

**Don't want to use the #900 line? Use BLOCK OF TIME™** You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone! Available only on touch-tone telephones. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

## PARTING GLANCES

**New Years Day @ Cafe Flor**  
I got up and offered you my table. You said Happy New Year. Perhaps I should have had another cup of coffee? ☎ 71467

**Get Together?**  
Mike, we met 12/16 at P.O.H. Would love to get together for conversation or??? Want to talk about it? ☎ 71453

**Gustavo: Cybelle's @ Bush/Jones**  
I don't know if you're gay, but Carlos is interested in you. Call me ☎ 71449

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Hungry in Oakland**  
Handsome African American man seeking other hungry AA men for discrete sex. Let me suck it. Let's be friends. Serious only. ☎ 71452

**Medium Build Versatile Latin**  
40 yrs. 5'7"/155 HIV+ healthy, honest, sensitive looking 4 friend 25/45 yrs. versatile, slim body to medium, any race. You will be love, what you get! ☎ 71460

**CoolOldStud ISO Badass Buttbog**  
Always horny, healthy 69yo, 5'8", 160#, Top (not versatile) needs Bi/G W masculinity for ass play + Friend + ??? ☎ 71454

**Seeking Shave Down and J/O Fun**  
SWGM 5'11", 175lbs, Masculine and fit seeking buddy for J/O, Mirrors, Photo Fun and shave down. Black guys a plus. I'm very uninhibited and love butt play and to fuck. ☎ 71455

**ISO Mature Responsible GLM/GWM**  
I'm passionate, romantic GLM, 53, HIV-, 5'10", 200#, beard, enjoy leather, sheer nylon, body jewelry, movies, bodybuilding. You're 40+, facial hair, uncut, OUT. Smoker/drinker ok, no drugs. Seeking LTR. ☎ 71452

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Discreet, Sincere, Retired**  
Gentleman near downtown Oakland seeking similar men fr daytime play. I'm 50, 5'9", 180, balding, Black. All races welcome. Phone required. Serious only. ☎ 71462

**Whip Mate Wanted**  
GWM, 60s, bondage lover seeks suspension rack, whip/paddle and oral freaks. Top, bottom or switch, HIV- and serious. Limits. My place in Delta (707) 374-0071 or (951) 963-5368 ☎ 71469

**Onyx 10 inch Dick**  
Let's fuck onyx is waiting 10 inch dick tick in search of horny, gorgeous guys ☎ 71465

**Tall and Thin Top**  
Looking for hungry holes. SF and East Bay. ☎ 71464

**ISO Stroking Buddy**  
Mature WM into uninhibited, extended jo and self-pleasuring seeks same for wallowing together (physical contact not necessary) in supercharged male energy. Toys, etc. Ok ☎ 71468

**ISO Sex Partner Man to Man**  
To share erotic massage, j/o, oral, porn. No drugs. Poppers and mild alcohol Ok. ☎ 71466

**Black/White XXX-Rated Sex**  
GWM 5'11" 175lbs. masculine and fit seeks black guys for hot sex and travel. Love to fuck and suck. Baths, nude beaches and more. ☎ 71450

## FETISHES

**2005 Drag Queens Ravish Oohs**  
Me Mr. Jxxx, st, Iso Drag-Queens 21-40 only for 69 all day, French-Greek-No drugs, just whoopee, black nylons, g-strings, black dress. ☎ 71463

**Compassionate Cocksuckerissimo!**  
Having maximized your load(s) go on to A) licking sweat off balls B) Beating amazingly shit free ass C) Gulping piss - you'll want me back (and front!) ☎ 71456

**Famous Catfood Hooked Cats ...**  
Just as the secret ingredient in my cocksucking will hook your meat so you don't want any other cocksucker 24/7! ☎ 71457

**Why I Suck Straight Guys Only:**  
Gay guys all think they're world's best cocksuckers when actually I am. So show me your girlfriend's photo/get royally sucked off! (I'm cum addict) ☎ 71458

**My Most Memorable Sex Ever**  
Out back/Steamworks sucking 9-inch when bzzzt bzzzt bzzzt three (3) spurts of hot creme de la creme! ☎ 71459



www.stevemurphy.com

# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

### CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐  
Seeking Relationship ☐  
Seeking Adventure ☐  
Lesbian ☐  
Fetishes ☐  
Couples ☐  
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## PERSONALS

## PEOPLE

## STRICTLY SEX!!

Hook-up Discreetly. 18+.  
Call 415-247-2000 or  
510-814-6699. Ad #5102.

## ADULT JOBS OFFERED

## OLDER MEN WANTED

4 XXX videos and modeling. Only  
55+ men. Good pay call mark  
626 473-2765 or  
modelssf@older4me.com

## FACTORY VIDEO

You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex  
& showing off + Making \$\$\$. Call now  
for an interview. Also looking for bears.  
Call us at 415-777-9070.  
www.factoryvideos.com

## XXX WEB

## FOR A GOOD TIME...

Write for our FREE catalog!  
Spunkvideo.com/catalog.html or 601 Van  
Ness Ave #E3-324 SF 94102. All the  
nasty DVDs you can shake your stick at!  
BB/WS/FF+

SPUNKVIDEO.COM

## BAY AREA REPORTER

Each week,  
we get picked  
up by more  
than half  
the gay men in  
San Francisco.

That *has* to be  
more than you  
can say.

For advertising  
rates and infor-  
mation call:  
415.861.5019 or  
email:  
BARadv@aol.com

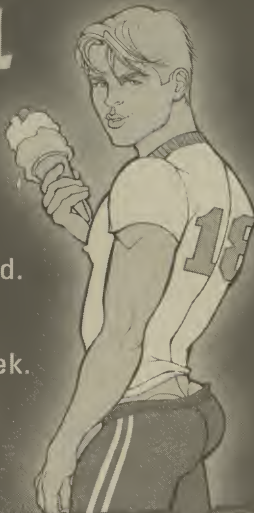
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVID,  
ARE YOU EVEN LEGAL IN THIS  
PHOTO?  
LOVE, SEAN.



## XXX WEB

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All ads  
have photos  
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Over  
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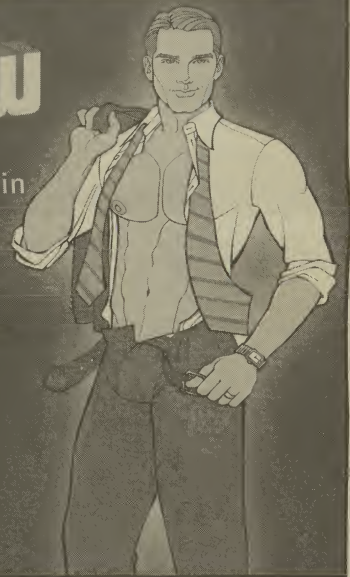
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BEST VALUE AROUND! Aside from our "FREE 6 MONTHS SPECIAL"...Reg. Memb. Only \$1 / Week



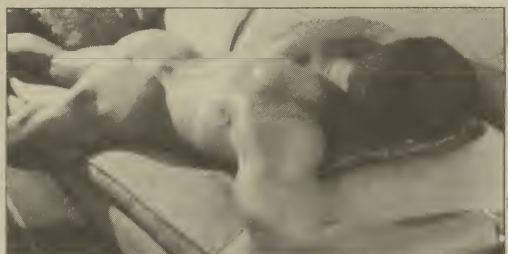
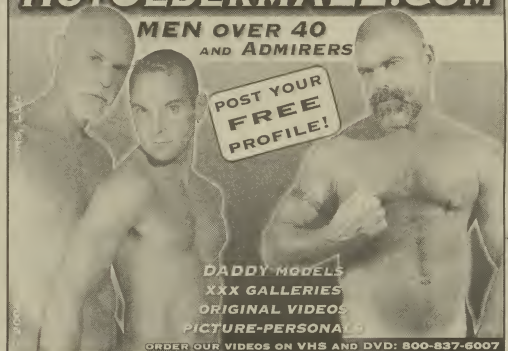
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MEN OVER 40  
AND ADMIRERS

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PROFILE!

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